

Phil. 103: Introduction to Logic

Class Exercise: More Fallacies of Presumption

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Directions: Identify the informal fallacies in the following passages. Choose from the fallacies of complex question, false cause, *petitio principii*, accident, and converse accident.

1. All persons act in their self-interest. Even so-called altruistic persons only act to help others in order to get something back. Obviously, they would not help others if they got nothing in return.
2. How can we stop the current apathy, the excessive partying, the constant search for entertainment, and the lack of serious studying by the students in this college? The solution is simply to raise academic standards, and those students will simply drop out.
3. I failed my first test in both economics and English literature. It seems clear that I simply was not cut out for college.
4. It should be no surprise to learn that in high school boys perform much better than girls in mathematics classes because high school girls do not do math as well as the boys.
5. Who is preventing you from making a 4.0 this semester? No one is, that's who. Don't you think you should do something about it? After all, when you think about it, there's no one standing in your way.
6. I know of two persons diagnosed with cancer who took massive doses of Vitamin C, and they are now in remission. The conclusion is clear. Massive doses of Vitamin C cure cancer.
7. You should expect a recession in South Carolina's economy in the near future because of the increasing important legislative role the members of the Democratic Party are taking in the State Legislature.
8. Governmental Financial Aid to students is totally out of control. Why I know a senior who pays no tuition and is taking in over four thousand dollars a month from his job. On top of that, he drives his new Corvette down to the beach every weekend to party.

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9. Many airplane manufacturers have seen their budgets dramatically increase because of the current conflicts in the Near East. It can hardly be surprising, then, these manufacturers are undoubtedly secretly fomenting international incidents to fuel the cry for a stronger American air presence in those countries.
 10. Consolidated Telephone Company never has enough operators on duty during the work-week. Why, for the past two days, I been put on hold, waiting for over two hours to take to an operator about wireless calls mistakenly attributed to my account.
 11. When my math professor turns away from the class and starts writing problems on the board, I get confused because whenever he does so, I cannot understand what he is saying. And when my comprehension falls, I get confused because I don't understand what he is saying.
 12. I started losing my hair after the birth of my first child. I put on a plaster of a mixture and castor oil and sheep dung every night, and my hair growth came back. Believe me, this remedy works. It worked for my grandmother too.
 13. We know low self-esteem leads to aggression for the reason that aggression is caused by having low self-esteem.
 14. This great country is constitutionally committed to the doctrine of equal rights for all citizens. This constitutional guarantee should never be abrogated. Consequently, businesses providing discounts to elderly Americans are in direct violation of the U. S. Constitution.
 15. Since there were two major accidents on Main Street yesterday morning, it's clear that the streets of our city are no longer safe anymore. Consequently, the need for the city planning commission to investigate the reasons is never more apparent.
 16. Recent studies of chess players have indicated that men have better spatial abilities than women. those studies base their reasoning on the premise that women's spatial abilities are more often mistaken.
 17. If the Democrats win the next Presidential election, then you might as well prepare yourself for economic hard times. History has shown us that with a Democratic win, you can pretty well count on a stock market downturn.
 18. The recent decline in the rate of felonies committed by juveniles in the state of New York is accounted for by the drop in serious crimes committed by individuals under the age of twenty.
 19. The United States is committed to the principles of freedom, liberty, and the presumed innocence of persons charged with a crime. Therefore, it should be against the law to jail suspected felons before their guilt is proved in a fair and impartial judicial proceeding.

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20. If you want your kids to do well in their university studies, you should have them first enlist in one of the armed services. My neighbor's son did that and now he is graduating *cum laude* from Riverview Community College.