

The logical fallacies assignment is an ongoing one which should be completed by the midterm mark. The assignment is straightforward: simply fill in all the relevant information/fields below. Also, be sure to complete any associated questions or tasks. This assignment is being evaluated on the basis of pass/fail, i.e. you lose marks for not completing tasks and you gain marks for completing them.

Slide 1: Logical Fallacies

A logical fallacy is a _____. Logical fallacies are like tricks or illusions of thought, and they're often used subtly by public speakers to convince audiences to agree with them.

Most people don't realize they're arguing they are frequently using faulty logic and logical fallacies. Why do you think this is?



Slide 2: Appeal to Consequences

You used an argument that either was considered true or false based on its desirable and undesirable consequences.

Design your own single sentence argument below where you appeal to consequences, not facts. Your argument should either exploit the audience's *fear* or *desire*.

Fear/Desire

Slide 3: False Dichotomy

You presented two alternative states as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities (choices) exist.

New York City is one of the largest and noisiest cities in the world. Some people want to control the noise by forcing restaurants, clubs and bars to close by no later than midnight. The assumption is these places must either be open or closed. Can you come up with a third option for New Yorkers to reduce noise levels?

Either/Or

Slide 4: Ad Hominem (literally "attack the man")

You attacked your opponent *personally* (their physical appearance or character) in an attempt to undermine their argument.

When we're arguing or disagreeing with someone is it better to attack the person's *ideas* or the *person*? Explain.

Slide 5: Slippery Slope

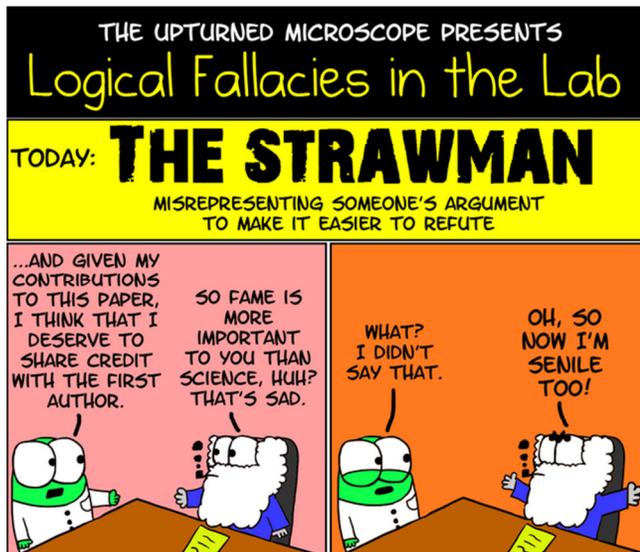
You said that if we allow X to happen, then Z will happen as a result; therefore, we should not do X.

Design a slippery slope argument related to one of the following things: immigration, women's rights, euthanasia, marijuana use or same sex marriage.

If X, then Z; therefore, do not do X.

Slide 6: Strawman

You misrepresented someone's argument to make it easier to attack. To do this you don't address what someone has said directly; instead, you draw attention to a second and unrelated argument.



Anthony Scaramucci compared the science of climate change to the "science" of flat Earthism. He said: there was an overwhelming science that the Earth was flat [in the past], and there was an overwhelming science that we were the center of the [universe in Galileo's day]. We get a lot of things from the scientific community [that turn out to be wrong].

What, if anything, is faulty with Scaramucci's reasoning?

Misdirection

Slide 7: Appeal to Emotion

You attempted to convince people you're right by appealing to their feelings (instead of either reason or logic).

Using the Internet conduct some quick research and find one line from a famous political speech where the speaker is manipulating people by appealing to their emotions, e.g. fear, envy, hatred, pity, anger or pride.

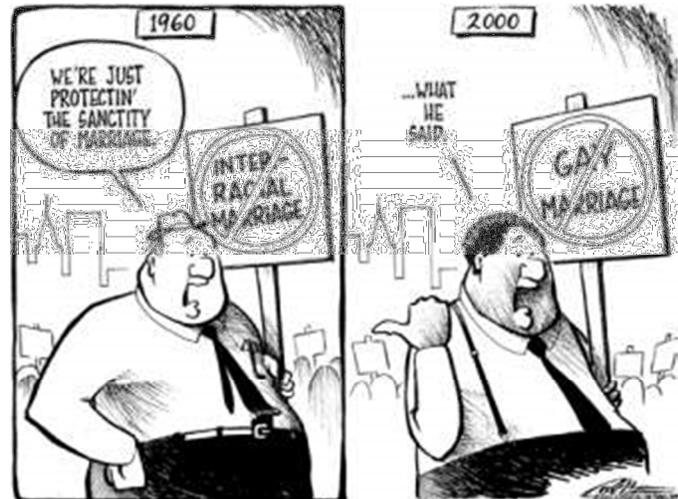
How does what I'm saying make you *feel*?

Slide 8: Special Pleading

You looked for special treatment by willfully ignoring those things that do not support your point of view. For example, if someone belongs to a religion where they are commanded to love everyone but they only I

Explain how the situation presented in this comic is an example of special pleading.

How are we being *inconsistent*?



Slide 9: Tu Quoque

You avoided having to engage with criticism by turning it back on the accuser—you answered criticism with criticism.

In the 1980s, the Republic of South Africa had a system called *apartheid* in place. Apartheid was official segregation where black people were not allowed to live in white communities. Canada, along with dozens of other Western countries, placed pressure on South Africa to put an end to apartheid. The South African Government argued Canada had no right to judge because the Canadians had their own form of apartheid in the form of residential schools and reservations.

Can a country that has an imperfect past/present itself publicly criticize another country for also being imperfect? Or should people just say nothing? Explain. You can earn a bonus point by citing a historical example of the tu quoque fallacy at work.

Do you have to first be perfect before criticizing?