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Types of Fallacies

Fallacies of Emotional Argument

1) Either/Or Choices (false dilemma) - reducing a complicated issue to excessively simple terms.

Ex. "America - Love It Or Leave It"

2) Slippery Slope - portrays today's tiny misstep as tomorrow's slide into disaster.

Ex. "Universal background checks will inevitably be followed by a national registry of gun-owners which will inevitably be followed by confiscation of all their guns."

3) Bandwagon Appeals - urge people to follow the same path everyone else is taking.

Ex. Everyone cheats a little on their taxes so what's the big deal with few fake write-offs?

Fallacies of Ethical Argument

1) Dogmatism - asserts or assumes that particular position is the only position.

Ex. I'm sorry, but I think penguins are sea creatures and that's that.

2) Ad Hominem - attacks the character of the person rather than the claims he or she makes.

Ex. Why should we think a candidate who recently divorced will keep her campaign promises?

Fallacies of Logical Argument

1) Hasty Generalization - an inference drawn from insufficient evidence; stereotypes.

Ex. Every medium that's been investigated has turned out to be a fraud. You can't trust any of them.

2) Faulty Causality (Post Hoc) - translates as "after this, therefore because of this" and is the faulty assumption that because one event follows another than the first causes the second.

Ex. A year after the release of the violent shooting video game, Annihilator, incidents of school violence tripled - surely not a coincidence.

3) Begging the Question - a claim is made on grounds that can't be accepted as true because those grounds themselves are in question.

Ex. My favorite author is always right because he says so in his latest book.

4) Non Sequitur - claims do not connect logically or "do not follow".

Ex. You don't love me or you would buy me a new car.

5) Red Herring - change the subject abruptly or introduces an irrelevant fact to throw readers or listeners off.

Ex. We haven't given raises in over five years to our employees. We work really hard to make a good product and provide good customer service.

6) False Analogy - consists in assuming that because two things are alike in one or more respects, they are necessarily alike in some other respect.

Ex. People who have to have a cup of coffee every morning before they can function have no less a problem than alcoholics who have to have their alcohol each day to sustain them.



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