

Logical Fallacies

An argument is a chain of reasons that a person uses to support a claim or a conclusion. To use argument well, you need to know 1) how to draw logical conclusions from sound evidence and 2) how to recognize and avoid false arguments, or logical fallacies.

Logical fallacies are the bits of fuzzy or misguided thinking that often crop up in our own speaking and writing, as well as in advertisements, political appeals, editorials, and persuasive essays.

Define the following logical fallacies and provide an example for each.

Appeal to Ignorance:

Appeal to Pity:

Bandwagon (known as peer pressure):

Appeal to Common Practice:

Appeal to Emotion:

Hasty Generalization:

Circular Thinking:

False Dichotomy:

Appeal to Fear:

Appeal to Tradition:

Appeal to Authority:

Ad Hominem:

Red Herring:

Straw Man: