

## **Fallacies of Argumentation**

### **What is a logical fallacy?**

A logical fallacy is essentially poor argumentation skills. A logical fallacy occurs when someone deploys a poorly thought out tactic to attempt to win an argument. In conversations it occurs when someone attempts to put words in your mouth, or they try to change the topic, or they may even use flattery to win an argument or debate.

### **Highlight: Eight Fallacies**

#### **#1 Hasty Generalization:**

Relying on a small and insignificant sample size to draw a conclusion; also applies to stereotype;

*EXAMPLE: One Asian driver cut me off, so ALL Asian drivers are bad!*

#### **#2 Bandwagon:**

Attempting to persuade based on popularity rather than reasoning; *EXAMPLE: Everyone is wearing AirPods, so I should buy them too!*

#### **#3 Oversimplification:**

Reducing a complex argument down in such a way that it strips away the true meaning of the argument;

*EXAMPLE: Stem cell research just encourages abortion!*

#### **#4 Emotional Manipulation:**

Using tears, anger, sentimentality etc. in a way that is extreme and/or unfair; *EXAMPLE: A child throws a tantrum until he gets ice cream.*

#### **#5 False Cause/ Post Hoc Fallacy:**

Stating that if two things occurred at the same time, then the first thing definitely caused the second event; *EXAMPLE: The black cat crossed my path, so now I have bad luck!*

#### **#6 Slippery Slope:**

Scaring someone into believing that one seemingly negative thing will lead to another negative thing until it snowballs out of control; *EXAMPLE: If gays and lesbians are allowed to marry, soon people will want to marry their dogs!*

#### **#7: Appeal to Fear:**

Instilling fear in people by making people believe that a devastatingly bad thing will occur if a certain action is not taken; using fear to manipulate others; *EXAMPLE: We must fight gun control or the Feds will come into our homes and take ALL our weapons!*

#### **#8: Unwarranted Assumption:**

Drawing a conclusion based on a false or unlikely premise; *EXAMPLE: Jumping to the conclusion that aliens exist due to one sketchy photo of a flying saucer*

## **Remember! Fight Back Against Bad Thinking!! YOU CAN DO IT!**

You can prevent fallacies by pausing to think, collecting facts, and taking time to allow emotions to settle down before saying or doing something you may later regret!