

Fallacies

Against the Man (*Ad Hominem*)

Attacking the man instead of his message. If you can't fault the message, then fault the messenger.

Appeal to Authority (*Ad Verecundiam*)

Basing the validity of an argument on what an "authority" said. It must be a fact if this authority said so.

Appeal to Emotion

Persuading by emotion rather than reason. An example of this is those who promote the idea of the holocaust and gas chambers.

Appeal to Force (*Ad Baculum*)

Persuading by coercion or threat, real or implied. You must be vaccinated because if you don't you may die from this disease.

Appeal to Ignorance (*Ad Ignorantiam*)

It must be true because it hasn't been proved false; or false because it hasn't be proved true. Pink elephants must exist because no one has proven that they do not.

Appeal to Pity (*Ad Misericordiam*)

It must be true because . . . (hand me some tissues).

Appeal to the Masses (*Ad Populum*)

It must be true because it's popular.

Appeal to Ridicule

It must be true because . . . ha ha ha. (ridiculing the opposing view)

Appeal to Tradition

It must be true because it has always been done that way.

Composition

What's true for the individual part of a whole is true for the entire whole form. If that man purchased a raffle ticket and won a house, then you also should buy a raffle ticket and will win a house.

Division

What's true for the entire whole form is true for each of its individual parts.

False or No Alternative

Offering only two valid options while omitting other valid alternative options, or presenting false alternative options

False Cause (*Post Hoc*)

Establishing a causal relationship from correlation or timing, without sufficient proof, and with no logical chain of events.

Generalization

Generalizing from an unrepresentative sample. That bald headed man drinks mango juice, therefore drinking mango juice causes men to become bald. So avoid drinking mango juice.

Middle Ground

The extremes are wrong, but the middle (mean) is correct. Since my position is the middle ground, it must be correct.

Red Herring

Diverting an argument by changing the topic, and arguing over a different issue.

Selective Evidence

Selectively omitting conflicting evidence. Only presenting evidence that supports your view.