**Logical Fallacies**

**Check out this video for more fallacies and information on fallacies: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQbDT9sk01g**

**Read about each of the following fallacies. Choose 3 to work with more in-depth. For each fallacy you choose, give a real-life example from an advertisement, an argument you have been in or witnessed, or another source. Use the chart on the next page to organize your work.**

**Appeal to tradition:**

When an argument is justified because of tradition. When people give the reasoning that something is a certain way because it has always been that way. Just because it is a tradition doesn’t mean it is true or right therefore it is not a good argument.

EX: “School uniforms are good because we have a tradition of having school uniforms.”

**Appeal to authority:**

When claims are not backed up with the exact statistics, the argument can be seen as faulty. Good arguments offer exact evidence. Good authority example: Centers for Disease Control that showed that teenagers were 33% less likely to wear seatbelts in cars. Bad example: “teenagers were dangerous drivers, and Time magazine said so.”

**Fallacy of False Cause**:

When a speaker says that one thing happened, and then a second thing happened, so therefore the first caused the second. So if A happened, then B happened, therefore A caused B. EX: “The sun rises every time I get out of bed. Therefore, by getting out of bed, I make the sun rise.” It is not reasonable to assume that one event caused the other to happen.

**Fallacy of Composition:**

When someone uses the logic that what is true of the part is true of the whole. For example one member of a debate team may be smart, and every member of the debate team may also be smart. This may be true, but you cannot be completely correct.

**Fallacy of Division:** Opposite of fallacy of composition. Just because something is true of the whole, doesn’t mean that it is true of its parts. EX: “You might read a story that says that the average American family has 2.3 children. Does this mean that the Jones family (an average American family) has 2.3 children? What would it mean to have .3 of a child?”

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| **Fallacy** | **Quotation or paraphrase of the fallacy in context.** | **Explanation of fallacy** | **A picture that represents the fallacy** |
| **Red Herring:** This is a diversionary tactic that avoids the key issues, often by avoiding opposing arguments rather than addressing them. | “The level of mercury in seafood may be unsafe, but what will fishers do to support their families?” | In this example, the author switches the discussion away from the safety of the food and talks instead about an economic issue, the livelihood of those catching fish. While one issue may affect the other it does not mean we should ignore possible safety issues because of possible economic consequences to a few individuals. |  |
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