

## Reasoning Based Logical Fallacies

**Fallacy**- a generic term that indicates an error or weakness in an argument or thought process

**Reasoning Fallacies**- the use of reasoning which fails to meet the test of sound logic

1. **False Analogy**- comparing two things that are not alike in significant respects or have critical points of difference  
**Example:** *We should not teach socialism in the university any more than we should teach arson.*
2. **Hasty Generalization**- drawing a conclusion based on too few or atypical examples  
**Example:** *I owned a Volvo and it gave me nothing but trouble. No one should ever purchase a Volvo.*
3. **Post Hoc or False Cause**- assuming that because two events are associated, one event caused the other  
**Example:** *All people who have cancer drink milk. Therefore, drinking milk must cause cancer.*
4. **Single Cause**- attributing only one cause to a complex problem  
**Example:** *The crime rate in North Carolina is spiraling out of control. Violent television is responsible for this trend.*
5. **Slippery Slope**- assuming that an event is the first in a series of steps that will inevitably lead to a given outcome  
**Example:** *If we start teaching evolution in school, everyone will eventually abandon organized religion.*
6. **Fallacy of Composition**- assuming that what is true of the separate parts is necessarily true of the collective whole  
**Example:** *Because Albert Einstein was a genius, all Germans are geniuses.*
7. **Fallacy of Division**- assuming that what is true of the collective whole is also true of the separate parts  
**Example:** *Because the Democratic Party is the liberal party in the United States, each Democratic congressman and congresswoman is a fiscal liberal.*

Hogan, J. M. (2011). *Public speaking and civic engagement* (pp. 312- 319). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

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