

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.*