

Reading Ex. > Understanding Fallacies

A. Read the definitions carefully. Then match each definition with its corresponding fallacy.

Types of Fallacy	Definitions
Generalization	<i>This fallacy attacks the person making the argument rather than addressing the argument itself. It involves attacking the character, background, or other personal attributes of the person making the argument, rather than addressing the merits of the argument itself.</i>
Straw Man	<i>This fallacy asserts that a particular action will lead to a chain of negative consequences, without providing sufficient evidence for such a claim. It involves making exaggerated or unsupported predictions about a series of events that will occur as a result of a single action.</i>
False Dilemma	<i>This fallacy argues that something is true or valid simply because many people believe or do it. It involves appealing to the popularity or majority opinion rather than providing solid evidence or reasoning.</i>
Circular Logic	<i>This fallacy relies on the authority or expertise of a person or source rather than providing substantive evidence or reasoning. It involves using the opinion or testimony of an authority figure as the sole basis for supporting an argument.</i>
Slippery Slope	<i>This fallacy misrepresents or exaggerates an opponent's argument in order to make it easier to attack. It involves creating a distorted or weakened version of an opponent's argument and attacking that version, rather than addressing the actual argument presented.</i>
Bandwagon	<i>This fallacy occurs when the conclusion of an argument is used to support one of the premises, without providing independent evidence or reasoning. It involves using the same statement in both the premise and the conclusion, essentially begging the question.</i>
Ad Hominem	<i>This fallacy occurs when a conclusion is drawn based on insufficient or unrepresentative evidence, leading to an overly broad or sweeping statement.</i>
Appeal to Authority	<i>This fallacy also known as the either-or fallacy, occurs when a situation is presented as having only two possible options or choices, when in fact there may be more options available. It limits the choices to an either-or scenario, disregarding other possibilities.</i>



B. Based on the previous exercise, decide what type of fallacy is used in each statement below.

1. "If we ban guns, only criminals will have guns."

Type of fallacy: _____

2. "Everyone is buying the latest smartphone, so it must be the best phone on the market."

Type of fallacy: _____

3. "The Bible is the word of God because it says so in the Bible."

Type of fallacy: _____

4. "I met one rude person from that country, so everyone from that country must be rude."

Type of fallacy: _____

5. "Dr. Smith, a renowned psychologist, says that this treatment is the best option, so it must be true."

Type of fallacy: _____

6. "If we allow people to own guns, it will lead to a society where everyone is armed, and chaos will ensue."

Type of fallacy: _____

7. "Opponents of the new education policy just want to keep our schools in the dark ages and stifle progress."

Type of fallacy: _____

8. "You can't trust John's opinion on climate change because he used to work for an oil company."

Type of fallacy: _____

C. Read the passage below. Then answer the questions based on it. (Text taken and adapted from Drawhorn, O. & Perrin, T. (2015) Essential Reading Skills Interactive Practice Workbook. Essential Education, Corvallis, OR, USA. p. 249)



I'm a stay-at-home dad. I get to spend all my time with my children. I make sure they do their homework, finish their chores, spend time outdoors, and have creative play. In households where both parents work, children don't get these opportunities. A parent who works cannot take the time to give their children the attention they need. It doesn't matter which parent stays home, but children need someone who's there all the time. Parents can either join or leave their child's life because of their job.

I know it can be tough to survive on one income, but having children requires sacrifices. If you aren't willing to live without more expensive vacations, a new car, or cable TV for the benefit of your children, you're not making the right choices. In fact, millions of parents recommend quality over quantity, and it must work.

Consider your children's futures. A two-parent household shouldn't have two working parents. Someone should stay home and make sure the children get the right start in life.



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1. What is the claim in the passage?

- a. Children need an at-home parent.
- b. Being an at-home parent is a full-time job.
- c. Parents must be next to their children all time.
- d. Making sacrifices for children is beneficial for them.

2. Identify and write ONE 'personal attack fallacy' in the passage.

3. What other types of fallacies are used in the passage?

- _____
- _____
- _____

D. How does Advertising Use Logical Fallacies? Look at the ads and decide what type of fallacy is being used in each case.

	
	