Logical Fallacies

A logical fallacy refers to a flaw in reasoning. By recognising types of logical fallacies, you can strengthen your ability to evaluate information. Avoid committing logical fallacies in your own arguments!

Fallacy Check! - Slippery Slope

If we do not pass this test, we will not be able to graduate, and we will not get jobs. And eventually, we will end up homeless and be sleeping on the streets.

Argument claims that a chain reaction will take place, even though there is not enough evidence for the assumption. The arguer usually assumes that if A happens, B and C etc. will follow and eventually Z will take place.

In this case, not passing a test does not directly equate to becoming homeless.

Fallacy Check! - Straw Man

He does not give support to the environmental campaign. He is definitely not a good person and is out to destroy the earth.

Misrepresenting someone's viewpoint to make it easier to attack.

Note that the arguer assumes the worst motive of the non-supporter, and does not address arguments that he may have.

Some other examples include:

Appeal to emotion

Making use of emotional appeal rather than having a valid argument.

Example:
'We should decrease pollution in the area as the children here will be really sad if we do not do so.'

Begging the Question

Making a claim where the conclusion is included in the premise. It is similar to making a circular reasoning.

Example:
'There are ghosts in the world because I have experienced what can only be described as a ghostly experience.'

Hasty Generalizations

Making a conclusion based on insufficient evidences or biased assumptions.

Example:
Stereotypes about people, such as 'All librarians are shy and quiet.'

This is not an exhaustive list of fallacies. You can explore more fallacies on your own. Importantly, exercise discretion and be aware of flawed reasoning when taking in information.

Sources:

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