

COMMON FALLACIES

STRAW MAN

The fallacy of the straw man refers to the concept of distracting from the claim/proposition (or point of support) and attacking another claim/proposition (or point of support), which the compositionist is more familiar with. The fallacy comes from the ease of being able to attack a “straw man”(a man made of straw) instead of a “real man” (who might be able to fight back in a real encounter).

AD HOMINEM

The fallacy of Ad Hominem (Latin for “to the man”) refers to the concept of attacking a person personally instead of attacking the opponents argument.

AD POPULUM

The fallacy of Ad Populum (Latin for “appeal to the people) refers to the concept of that a claim is right, just, or correct because the majority of people support the claim.

AD IGNORANTIUM

The fallacy of Ad Ignorantium (Latin for “ignorance”) refers to the idea that a claim is true because it has not been proven to be false or untrue. This applies to religious, scientific, and philosophical beliefs.

AD NOVIATEM

The fallacy of Ad Noviatem (Latin for “novelty” or “new”) refers to the idea that something is true because it is new.

AD ANTIQUITATEM

The fallacy of Ad Antiquitatem (Latin for “Antiquity” or “Ancient”) refers to the idea that something is true because it follows a traditional way of thinking or a common practice. Similarly, this fallacy also applies to the idea that something is true because it might have been true in the past.

BANDWAGON

The fallacy of the Bandwagon (sometimes called “bandwagon thinking”) refers to the idea that something is just, right, or true because everyone else believes it to be just, right, or true.

NATURALISTIC FALLACY

This fallacy refers to the idea that something natural is good because it is natural (or belonging to nature).

APPEAL TO FEAR

This fallacy refers to the idea that a person creates support by increasing fear and prejudice towards the opposing person or viewpoint.

SLIPPERY SLOPE

This fallacy refers to the idea that a cause may inevitably lead to a undesirable effects even though there is no evidence of this potential.

HASTY GENERALIZATION

This fallacy refers to the situation where a conclusion is reached without sufficient evidence.

FAULTY GENERALIZATION

This fallacy refers to the situation where a conclusion is reached from weak premises (or supporting facts)

NON-SEQUITOR

The fallacy of Non-Sequitur (Latin for "it does not follow") refers to the idea where a conclusion does not follow from its premises. In Non-Sequitur, a conclusion could be true or false; however, the premises that produce the conclusion are not connected.

FALSE ANALOGY

This fallacy refers to the situation where a person uses an analogy which has no connection to the thing discussed.

FALSE AUTHORITY

This fallacy refers to the situation where a person uses "expert" information from an expert who does not have "expertise" on the topic discussed.

RED HERRING

This fallacy refers to situation where a person uses another topic to distract from the issue.