

Chapter 6 Classwork

Exercise 6-3

Instructions: Determine which inductive fallacy, if any, is present in the following passages. Remember that with some passages, more than one fallacy may fit.

1) Either you marry me now or I'll be forced to leave you and never speak to you again. I'm sure you wouldn't want me to do that. So I'm guessing you'll want to marry me now.

2) Butane is combustible. Therefore, it burns.

3) People who lack humility have no sense of beauty because everyone who has a sense of beauty also has humility.

4) The administration is not anti-German, as it has been alleged. Germany is a great country. It has contributed immensely to the world's artistic treasury. Goethe and Schiller made magnificent contributions to literature, and Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, and Brahms did the same in music.

5) Senator Kennedy's arguments in favor of health care for the poor and aged should be ignored. Kennedy is a do-gooder who supports this kind legislation only to get his name in the newspapers.

6) Of course you should eat your Wheaties. Wheaties is the breakfast of champions, after all.

7) In the *History of the American Civil War*, Jeffry Noland argues that the war had little to do with slavery. However, as a historian from Alabama, Noland could not possibly present an accurate account. Therefore, his arguments should be discounted.

8) In the *History of the American Civil War*, Jeffry Noland argues that the war had little to do with slavery. However, as a historian from Alabama, it's unlikely that Noland would present a completely objective account. Therefore, his arguments should be read carefully, and other sources should be consulted to verify his claims.

9) Professor Andrews, surely I deserve a B in logic. I know that I have gotten Fs on all the tests, but if you give me an F for my final grade, I will lose my scholarship. That will force me to drop out of school.

10) No one has ever proved that the human fetus is not a person with rights. So abortion is morally wrong.

11) Mr. Prime Minister, I am certain you will want to release the members of our National Liberation Group whom you currently hold in prison. After all, I'm sure you will want to avoid having car bombs go off in the centers of your most heavily populated cities.

12) Each and every brick in the completely brick-faced Wainright Building has a reddish brown color. So the Wainright Building has a reddish brown color.

13) We know that induction will provide dependable results in the future because it has always worked in the past. Whatever has consistently worked in the past will continue to work in the future, and we know this is true because it has been established by induction.

14) Either we have prayer in our public schools or the moral fabric of society will disintegrate. The choice should be obvious.

15) No one has ever proved that taking vitamins actually improves a person's health. So we can conclude that vitamins are simply a waste of time and money.

16) You're wrong, Charlie Brown. Anyone with a face like yours cannot be right.

17) Don't vote for that candidate for president. The President is Commander and Chief of the armed forces. This man was never even in the military.

18) How long has the space program been going on? And we still haven't discovered any other intelligent life? If we haven't discovered life yet, what's the point? We should shut down the program.

19) I can't wait for summer vacation so I can get all those books read that I've been putting off reading during the school year.

20) How can you believe that John is innocent? I don't see how we can go on being friends if you believe that.

21) You should reconsider your view on that topic, Stanly. After all, I am the professor and I'm the one giving you a grade in the course.

22) I think she's the best candidate for mayor. She has a good track record of being honest, she's consistent in her views, and she has a vision for improving the city.

23) It doesn't make sense for you to give pop quizzes to your class, Professor Smith. It just makes a lot of extra work for you and makes the students nervous. Students should not need pop quizzes to motivate them to prepare for each class.

24) I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal.” I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

25) You should really get a Prudential life insurance policy. What would happen to your spouse and children if you die? Remember, you are their main source of income. Would they be forced to move?

Exercise 6-4

Instructions: Choose five passages from exercise 6-3 that are, in fact, fallacies and turn them into arguments. In other words, add a relevant premise or conclusion so that the passages you choose can no longer be considered fallacies.