

Chapter 7 Homework

Exercise 7-1

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) I'd better not eat this lemony desert thing. If I do, there will be no end. Hamburgers, chips, ice cream, chocolates—you name it and I will eat all of it. I will explode.

2) Stress bad for you? That's a myth. I know all sorts of Type A people who are in excellent health.

3) These university students drink like crazy on Halloween and St. Patrick's Day. They probably drink like crazy on Christmas, too.

4) I had a great time at the party last night; I'll bet all university parties are great.

5) The prayer leader cured her rheumatism. She said he did, and who would know better than she?

6) Salmon is very bad for dogs. You shouldn't let your cat eat it either, I guess.

7) You have to stand up for what you believe. Ignore it if your wife complains about how fast you are driving.

8) Most Americans watch American Idol. That's clear since over one million people cast votes on the season finale.

9) One Guy: The guy Paulson shot had climbed through a window and was coming down the darkened hallway.

Another Guy: Doesn't matter; he still should have been charged with murder because the guy he shot was unarmed.

10) I tried to buy a portable heater from the Saber Company last winter, and it was back-ordered. After a month, I just canceled and decided not to do any more business with them.

11) "In a message about discrimination in private clubs, he [Morley Safer] wrote that all clubs, by definition, discriminate through admissions policies and hefty annual dues. 'What will be next?' he asked. 'Disassociation with clubs that do not cater to vegans on their menus? Kosher dining rooms? Special facilities for nudists and transsexuals?'"

Source: *New York Times*

12) The heart attack rate spikes the day clocks are set ahead for daylight saving time, demonstrating how time change can effect our health.

13) The professor is a fantastic teacher. He should run for Congress.

14) These days young people don't like expensive cars. You hardly ever see a teenager driving a Maserati.

15) Prostate cancer is almost unheard of in countries where they don't eat meat, proof positive that meat in your diet will lead to prostate cancer.

16) When the government bailed out General Motors it set a bad precedent. Now it'll be bailing out banks and the automobile industry and any company that isn't competent enough to stay in business on its own.

17) The new law says everybody who takes a firearms course can carry a concealed weapon, so I don't see why I can't take my gun to school.

18) My son thinks Galaxies are better than iPhones, and he should know since he's a teenager.

19) I'm putting my money in a Vanguard account. My history teacher thinks the firm has the best mutual funds, and he is a smart man.

20) Be prepared. We are traveling to a Third World country; there won't be good hotels.

21) You would not go into the woods if you knew there were bears there, and the same thing therefore holds for getting into a bear market. Hang onto your money until the market changes.

22) Given the right circumstances, humans will always revert to savages. Look at the Nazis.

23) We live in a democracy. That's why children should be allowed to vote.

24) My student evaluations were better this year. I'll bet it's because I had to cancel class two times.

25) Statistics show that smokers disproportionately come from low-income areas. We are trying to figure out what it is about poverty that makes people smoke.

Exercise 7-2

Instructions: Choose five passages from exercise 7-1 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.