

# Logical Fallacies Awareness



Understanding how people often advance illogical arguments, and knowing how to spot such arguments, can help confer disinformation immunity. It's crucial to learn how to identify fallacies and refrain from using them. Students should know to be on the lookout for the use of fallacies in the news media, and in their own work. Some of the most common logical fallacies include emotional appeal, ad hominem attacks, strawman argumentation, cherry-picking, and the tendency to confuse correlation with causation (a.k.a. post hoc ergo propter hoc).

## Applications

- **Teach** the most common logical fallacies alongside examples. Yourlogicalfallacyis.com<sup>1</sup> and the Purdue OWL<sup>2</sup> are both great sources of explanations & examples.
- Train students to avoid using logical fallacies by **calling out when they are used in essays, assignments, and discussions**. When doing this, have the student reformulate their ideas so as to avoid using any fallacies they did. This might lead to them changing their mind about something and that is critical thinking in action!
- **Present real-world examples of fallacies**: Use news articles, advertisements, or social media posts to demonstrate how fallacies are used in real-life situations. Encourage students to analyze and debunk them. Snopes<sup>3</sup>, RumorGuard<sup>4</sup>, and NewsGuard's Reality Check<sup>5</sup> may be good sources for finding examples.



## Notes

Logical fallacies can be tricky. Sometimes arguments combine multiple fallacies or have some valid reasoning alongside the fallacy. Identifying a fallacy doesn't automatically mean the whole argument is wrong. The key is to develop critical thinking skills to analyze arguments, spot weaknesses (including fallacies), and evaluate the evidence presented.

<sup>1</sup> yourlogicalfallacyis.com, [Thou shalt not commit logical fallacies](#)

<sup>2</sup> Purdue OWL, [Logical Fallacies](#)

<sup>3</sup> Snopes, [Fact Check Ratings](#)

<sup>4</sup> [RumorGuard](#)

<sup>5</sup> NewsGuard, [Reality Check](#)