

PodClass Handout Week 9

The **ad hominem abusive** fallacy is distinguished by an attack on alleged character flaws of a person instead of the person's argument.

Socrates was old and ugly. What could he know about human excellence?
Ellen is mean to her staff. So, you shouldn't listen to anything she says on her show.
Everything Freud said was wrong, because he did cocaine.

The **ad hominem circumstance** fallacy occurs when someone's argument is rejected based on the circumstances of a person's life.

Kevin Durant doesn't know anything about politics. He is just a basketball player.
What Ben says about Lil Sebastian does not matter. He is not from Panwee.
Neil deGrass Tyson anything about Philosophy. He is an astrophysicist.

Poisoning the well is a version of the ad hominem fallacy that occurs when a person is attacked before she has a chance to present her case

Imagine you are talking to a friend about the class you might sign up for next quarter, and they say "Before you sign up for that class, you should know that the professor is divorce and has been arrested before."

The **Tu Quoque** fallacy is distinguished by the specific attempt of one person to avoid the issue at hand by claiming the other person is a hypocrite.

Amy: "You cant just put humans on display, it's cruel."
Dr. Banjo: "Cruel? Was it cruel when humans caged other primates in zoos for centuries?"

Ryan Zinke rode a horse to work on his first day at the department. He swung Karen Pence around like a bag of potatoes. And despite the fact that he is very much not a geologist, he has the weird habit of claiming: "I am a geologist." But he is not a geologist, at all.

The **appeal to people** fallacy occurs when an argument manipulates a psychological need or desire so a reader or listener will accept the conclusion.

Immigrants are doing something bad to us, and we as Americans need to band together and build a wall or enact stronger legislation to keep out immigrants.

The Apple FaceTime commercial "Everyday more people connect face to face on iPhone than any other phone"

Luxury car commercial are examples of appeal to exclusivity.

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The **appeal to pity** fallacy results from an exclusive reliance on a sense of pity or mercy for support of a conclusion.

The SPCA commercial with Sarah McLachlan is an example of appeal to pity.

Appeal to fear or force is a threat of harmful consequences (physical or otherwise) used to force acceptance of a course of action that would otherwise be unacceptable.

A mobster comes into your store and tell you, “this is a really dangerous neighborhood, and stores are getting broken into all the time. It would be a real shame if your store got broken into, without the proper protection.”

Rigid application of a generalization fallacy happens when a generalization or rule is inappropriately applied to the case at hand. The fallacy results from the unwarranted assumption that a generalization or a rule is universal (meaning it has no exceptions).

I cant believe the police didn't give the driver of that ambulance any citations. She was speeding, she when through a red light, and she swerved from one lane to the next without using her turn signals.

A **hasty generalization** is an argument that relies on a sample of that is unlikely to represent the population.

You are driving around town and someone with a license plate from Hawaii cuts you off. You conclude that all drivers from Hawaii are terrible drivers.

The fallacy of **composition** comes in two forms : (1) the mistaken transfer of an attribute of the individual parts of an object to the object as a whole and (2) the mistaken transfer of an attribute of the individual members of a class to the class itself.

All of my atoms are invisible to the naked eye. I am made up of all my atoms. Therefore, I am invisible to the naked eye.

School's accusation: The fraternity is bad because a few of the members are bad.

Otter's defense: If their fraternity is bad, and their fraternity is a part of the fraternity system, then the entire fraternity system is bad. Since the fraternity system is a part of the education system, and if the fraternity system is bad, then the entire education system is bad. And since the education system is a part of American society, and if the education system is bad, then the entire American society is bad.

A motorcycle produces more noise than cars. Therefore, motorcycles produce more noise on highways than cars do.

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The fallacy of **division** comes in two forms: (1) the mistaken transfer of an attribute of an object as a whole to the individual parts of the object and (2) the mistaken transfer of an attribute of a class to the individual members of the class.

He has blond hair, so his cells must have blond hair.

The pain of glass is fragile, so its atoms must be fragile.

The set of integers is infinite. Therefore, the number three is infinite.

The United States has an opioid problem. Therefore, all Americans have an opioid problem.

A **slippery slope** argument attempts to connect a series of occurrences such that the first link in a chain leads directly to a second link, and so on, until a final unwanted situation is said to be the inevitable result.

When the cable company keeps you on hold, you feel trapped. When you feel trapped, you need to feel free. When you need to feel free, you try hang gliding. When you try hang gliding you crash into things. When you crash into things, the grid goes down. When the grid goes down, crime goes up. And when crime goes up, your dad gets punched over a can of soup.