

### Attack of the Killer Fallacies

False Analogy

Personal Attack - Abusive (Argumentum ad hominem)

Personal Attack - Circumstantial (Argumentum ad hominem)

Appeal to Force (Argumentum ad baculum)

Appeal to Pity (Argumentum ad misericordiam)

Argument from Ignorance (Argumentum ad ignorantiam)

Appeal to Authority (Argumentum ad verecundiam)

Bandwagon appeal (Argumentum ad populum)

1. However, it matters very little now what the king of England either says or does; he hath wickedly broken through every moral and human obligation, trampled nature and conscience beneath his feet, and by a steady and constitutional spirit of insolence and cruelty procured for himself an universal hatred.  
~Thomas Paine, Common Sense
2. I'm absolutely certain about how fast I was driving, Officer, and it was well below the speed limit. I've had tickets before, and if you give me one now it will cost me over fifty dollars. And if I have to pay a fifty dollar fine I won't be able to afford to have my wife operated on—and she's been sick a long time and needs that operation desperately.
3. Kenneth Robinson, when he was Great Britain's minister of health, told Parliament that Scientology was "potentially harmful" and a "potential menace". Elliott, the local minister of the Church of Scientology, was asked to comment on those criticisms. Of the remarks made before Parliament, he said: "I am afraid Mr. Robinson has since suffered two demotions and was just in the last few weeks quietly released from the Wilson administration altogether."
4. Like an armed warrior, like a plumed knight, James G. Blaine marched down the halls of the American Congress and threw his shining lances full and fair against the brazen foreheads of every defamer of his country and maligner of its honor. For the Republican Party to desert a gallant man now is worse than if any army should desert their general on the field of battle.  
--Robert G. Ingersoll, Nomination  
speech at the Republican National  
Convention, 1876
5. On the Senate floor in 1950, Joe McCarthy announced that he had penetrated "Truman's iron curtain of secrecy." He had 81 case histories of persons whom he considered to be Communists in the State Department. Of Case 40 he said, "I do not have much information of this except the general statement of the agency that there is nothing in the files to disprove his Communist connections."  
--Richard H. Rovere, Senator Joe  
McCarthy

6. In the melancholy book The Future of an Illusion, Dr. Freud, himself one of the last great theorists of the European capitalist class, has stated with simple clarity the impossibility of religious belief for the educated man of today.  
--John Strachey, The Coming Struggle for Power
7. The Inquisition must have been justified and beneficial, if whole peoples invoked and defended it, if men of the loftiest souls founded and created it severally and impartially, and its very adversaries applied it on their own account, pyre answering to pyre.  
--Benedetto Croce, Philosophy of the Practical
8. The Golden Rule is basic to every system of ethics ever devised, and everyone accepts it in some form or another. It is, therefore, an undeniably sound moral principal.
9. Congress shouldn't bother to consult the Joint Chiefs of Staff about military appropriations. As members of the armed forces, they will naturally want as much money for military purposes as they think they can get.
10. Once again Jesus addressed the people: "I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall wander in the dark; he shall have the light of life. The Pharisees said to him, "You are witness in your own cause; your testimony is not valid."  
--John 8:12-14
11. Was it through stupidity or through deliberate dishonesty that the Administration has hopelessly botched its foreign policy? In either case, unless you are in favor of stupidity or dishonesty, you should vote against the incumbents.
12. I don't care how sick he is. He is wanted at the shop immediately. When the supervisor sends for a man, the employee is expected to make his appearance.
13. "For the benefit of those Representatives who have not been here before this year, it may be useful to explain that the item before the General Assembly is that hardy perennial called the "Soviet Item". It is purely a propaganda proposition, not introduced with a serious purpose of serious action, but solely as a peg on which to hang a number of speeches with the view of getting them into the press of the world. This is considered by some to be very clever politics. Others, among whom the present speaker wishes to be included, consider it an inadequate response to the challenge of the hour."  
--Henry Cabot Lodge, Speech to the UN General Assembly, 1953