

Frankenstein's Fallacy

False Cause (Post hoc ergo propter hoc and Pro causa non causa)
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 ignorantium)
Appeal to Authority (Argumentum ad verecundiam)

1. According to R. Grunberger, author of *A Social History of the Third Reich*, the Nazis used to send the following notice to German readers who let their subscriptions lapse: "Our paper certainly deserves the support of every German. We shall continue to forward copies of it to you, and hope that you will not want to expose yourself to the unfortunate consequences in the case of cancellation."
2. When Roger Babson, whose prediction of the great stock market crash brought him renown, became ill with tuberculosis, he returned to his home in Massachusetts rather than follow his doctor's advice to remain in the West. During the freezing winter he left windows open, wore a coat with a heating pad in back, and had his secretary wear mittens and hit the typewriter keys with rubber hammers. Babson got well and attributed his cure to fresh air. Air from pine woods, according to Babson, has chemical or electrical qualities (or both) of great medical value.
3. You're wrong to reject Tang because it's not a completely natural product. It's probably fairly nutritious. After all, NASA selected it for use by the astronauts.
4. It is too my turn to pitch today! After all, it's my ball!
5. No mathematician has ever been able to demonstrate the truth of the famous "last theorem" of Fermat, so it must be false.
6. UPI story from the 1960s: Mrs. Martha Mitchell blames American educators for destroying the country. "They are totally responsible for the sins of our children."
7. Jeff: Get out Dr. Spock's baby book--Norman's sick again.
Jill: Oh no, you don't. We're not using that book any more. Did you know that the Dr. Spock who wrote that book is Benjamin Spock, the radical nut who's always demonstrating against the government?
Jeff: No, I didn't realize that. How about using Dr. Brazelton's book?
8. The alarmists have not succeeded in proving that ozone holes in the atmosphere are harmful to human life. Therefore, it is perfectly safe to continue using freon in air conditioning units.

9. You can't believe what Professor Threadbare says about the importance of higher salaries for teachers. As a teacher himself he would naturally be in favor of increasing teachers' pay.

10.

Judy: It's safer taking a long trip and going to the mall to shop.

John: What? You're kidding.

Judy: No, I'm not. Half of all auto accidents occur within five miles of home.

11. Mr. Scrooge, my husband certainly deserves a raise in pay. I can hardly manage to feed the children on what you have been paying him. And our youngest child, Tim, needs an operation if he is ever to walk without crutches.

12. No breath of scandal has ever touched the Senator. Therefore, he must be incorruptibly honest.

13. If you hold that nothing is self-evident, I will not argue with you, for it is clear that you are a quibbler and are not to be convinced.

14. You can't prove that he was to blame for the misfortune, so it must actually have been someone else who was responsible.

15. You can't park here. I don't care what the sign says. If you don't drive on, I'll give you a ticket.

16. More young people are attending high schools and colleges than ever before in the history of our nation. But there is more juvenile delinquency than ever before. This makes it clear that to eliminate delinquency among the youth we must abolish the schools.

17. Gentlemen, I am sure that if you think it over you will see that my suggestion has real merit. It is only a suggestion of course, and not an order. As I mentioned at our last conference, I am planning to reorganize the whole business. I still hope, however, that it will not be necessary to curtail the operations of your department.

18. Old man Brown claims that he saw a flying saucer land on his farm. But old man Brown never got beyond the fourth grade in school and can hardly read or write. He is completely ignorant of what scientists have written on the subject, so his report cannot possibly be true.

19. My client is the sole support of his aged parents. If he is sent to prison it will break their hearts, and they will be left homeless and penniless. You surely cannot find it in your hearts to reach any other verdict than "not guilty."