

The Fallacy Massacre

Fallacies of Ambiguity

Directions: Identify the fallacies of ambiguity in the following passages using the following options:
Composition Equivocation Accent Division Amphiboly

1. Seeing that eye and hand and foot and every one of our members has some obvious functions must we not believe that in like manner a human being has a function over and above these particular functions?

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

2. Mr. Tompkins is a poor man and he loses whenever he plays bridge. He is, therefore, a poor loser.

3. "Who did you pass on the road?" the King went on, holding his hand out to the messenger. "Nobody," said the messenger. "Quite right," said the King. "This young lady saw him too. So of course Nobody walks slower than you."

Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*

4. But space is nothing but a relation. For, in the first place, any space must consist of parts; and if the parts are not spaces, the whole is not space.

F. W. Bradley, *Appearance and Reality*

5. The Bible tells us to return good for evil. But Jones has never done me any evil. Hence it will be all right to play him a dirty trick or two.

6. All phenomena in the universe are saturated with moral values. And, therefore, we can come to assert that the universe for the Chinese is a moral universe.

Thomas F. Fang, *The Chinese View of Life*

7. Since every third child born in New York is a Catholic, Protestant families living there should have no more than two children.

8. Her father has a very distinguished appearance, so he must be a very distinguished man.

9. To press forward with a properly ordered wage structure in each industry is the first condition for curbing competitive bargaining; but there is no reason why the process should stop there. What is good for each industry can hardly be bad for the economy as a whole.

Twentieth Century Socialism

10. Iraqi threats are no news. Therefore Iraqi threats are good news, since no news is good news.

11. Traffic accidents are increasing. Collisions between Model T Fords are traffic accidents. Therefore collisions between Model T Fords are increasing

12. ...each person's happiness is a good to that person, and the general happiness, therefore, a good to the aggregate of all persons.

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*

13. Psychological testing established that Mr. Jones' concern with money was above average and that Mrs. Jones' concern with money was below average. It follows that Jones likes money more than his wife. Their marriage is not likely to last, for how can a man stand a woman to whom he prefers money?