

The Fallacy Knows What You Did Last Summer

False Analogy
False Cause
Non-sequitur

Appeal To Authority (argumentum ad verecundium)
Guilt by Association
Either/Or

1. My ancestors came over on the Mayflower; therefore, I am naturally opposed to labor unions.
2. Representative democracy will never work, said Thomas Carlyle. After all, he reasoned, if a captain of a ship had to take a vote among his crew every time he wanted to do something, he would never sail around Cape Horn.
3. Since Rome fell after the introduction of Christianity, the Christian religion is responsible for the fall of Rome.
4. A driver who goes too fast is much like an airplane test pilot; his work is dangerous, but he knows exactly what he is doing.
5. In this age the human race has the choice between growing together into a single family and committing mass suicide. Mankind's destiny hangs on the outcome of our decisions about how we should use our wealth and technology—for fraternization or annihilation.
6. The Buena Vista area should not be made into a state park. Who can forget that soon after Holly State Park was created, a forest fire burned down half of the trees in it. The same thing might well happen in Buena Vista.
7. All living things require water, regardless of their genus or species. My automobile requires water too, so it may be called a living thing.
8. According to Don Xenophon, world-renowned comedian: "Life is a lot of laughs at Sunshine Village. If you've worked hard all your life and now its time for you to have fun full time, buy a condominium at the place where you'll be happiest—Sunshine Village. Folks who live at the Village say they're busy all day long and happy 85 percent of the time. So when were you ever happy 85 percent before?"
9. Kim, we've been dating for a month now, and I really like you a lot. But I don't like your going out with other guys, too. Either you and I go steady or we have to stop seeing each other completely.
10. The ideal human society would be like the society of the bees. Every individual has a job to do and knows what the job is and performs it well. There is no waste, no doubt, no insecurity.
11. On Tuesday afternoon I got my hair cut and on Tuesday evening my goldfish died. I'll never get my hair cut on a Tuesday again, because I don't want my fish to die.

12. Either you deliberately forgot to bring your homework as a gesture of defiance or you think you can get everyone's sympathy by acting absent-mindedly.
13. You can't trust Alexandria. Her uncle is a convicted embezzler.
14. Dr. Smith, the world-famous expert on whales and dolphins, claims that potatoes are the most nutritious food available.

15. ARGUMENT

Husband: You know, dear, I couldn't start my car this morning.

Wife: Why are you telling me?

Husband: Because you used it last, honey.

Wife: And just what is that supposed to mean?

Husband: Well, nothing, except that it was okay until you drove it.

Wife: Are you insinuating that because I used your old car yesterday and it wouldn't start for you this morning, I am responsible?

Husband: It certainly makes sense, darling. You were the last one to use it, therefore...

16. ARGUMENT

Mother: Steven, you are not to go out tonight.

Steven: But Mom, I have to go out.

Mother: I'm sorry, but I think it best that you don't go out tonight.

Steven: Please Mom, I'll stay in all day tomorrow. Please just let me go out tonight.

Mother: Steven, my job is like the captain of a ship. It is my responsibility to protect you in spite of yourself. You are not going out tonight!

17. ARGUMENT

Leigh: So you approve of the "spare the rod, spoil the child" approach?

Gerty: Yes—without reservation!

Leigh: Well, I respect your opinion, but let me ask you this: where were you born?

Gerty: In Chicago.

Leigh: In the city proper?

Gerty: Yes.

Leigh: Well, that explains it.

Gerty: Explains what?

Leigh: Why you believe what you do!

18. ARGUMENT

Conservative: Well, the way I see it, the situation is summed up in this slogan: America—love it or leave it!

Radical: And I say: America—change it or lose it!