

Logical Fallacies

1. **Argumentum ad Spiritum:** Argument to the Spirit
 - God told me to do such and such...but it denies Scripture
 - God revealed such and such to me... but it denies Scripture
 - The HS gave me a revelation... but it denies Scripture.
 - Don't blame God. See Is 5:20; Malachi 2:6; 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1John 2:20 & 27.

2. **Argumentum ad Lapidem:** Argument to the stone.
 - Invincible Ignorance; the immovable object (it's a massive stone that can't be moved).
 - Some people are immovable; nothing will change that persons mind.
 - The person is willfully ignorant. Don't bother me with the facts, I have already made up my mind. The arguments you give them are good, they just refuse to accept them. They refuse to believe.
 - Don't confuse me with the facts.
 - Knowledge does not entail belief. You can give a person a good argument but it does not entail belief. A good example of this is cigarettes. We are like this because we are sinful human beings (John 1:5; 3:19-20; 8:12; 18:37).

3. **Almighty Will Fallacy:** If there is a will, there is a way.
 - Just visualize it...if you really want it, you can do it.
 - The belief that the will is a necessary sufficient condition. All you have to do is want something or will something bad enough and it will happen.
 - The Bible says "I can do all things"... but that is according to the Lords will and what He wants from you.
 - This type of thinking is found in New Age and the occult (Words of Power).

NOTE: "4" things that need to be distinguished (but is not to be confused with the "Will Fallacy")

1. Common Sense
2. Radical Genuine Faith (Ex. Noah, Moses, Abraham)
3. Exaggeration (Ex. Robert Schuller – PMA [Positive Mental Attitude])
4. The Occult: Occultic Practices

TIME FALLACIES (4 OF THEM)

1. **Argumentum ab Annis** (Pg. 99 of Geisler) – Argument because of age.
 - The idea is that truth is subject to aging.
 - Ex. That's Victorian; that's mid-evil; that's primitive; that's from the dark ages.
 - The idea is new so that means it's better.
 - Explicitly the old is bad, implicitly the new is good.
 - The age of something has nothing to do with it...ASK FOR THE EVIDENCE.

2. **Argumentum ad Novitan aka The Fallacy of Novalty**
 - Argument to the New
 - Explicitly the new is good, implicitly the old is bad
 - Ex. You believe in that old stuff.
3. **Argumentum ad Antiquitum** – Appeal to tradition
 - Explicitly the old is good because it's old.
 - The past is good because of it's age.
 - Something is not always good because it is old.
 - “We've always done it that way” ...” My mom did it that way and her mom did it that way.”
4. **Argumentum ad Futuris** – Argument to the Future (Pg.99 – Geisler)
 - We don't have an answer but we'll find it tomorrow
 - Appealing to tomorrow, appealing to the future.
 - The fallacy that the future is going to have the answer.
 - Naïve optimism

FALLACY OF REFERENCE

1. **Argumentum ad Hominem** – Argument to/or against the man (Pg. 93-93 Geisler / Pg. 125 Hurley)

- Also known as abusing the man
- Name calling
- Attacking the opponent instead of the issue
- Not giving reasons or evidence so one attacks the person

2. **Circumstantial ad Hominem** (Pg 94 Geisler, Pg.126 Hurley)

- You either appeal or attack the person based on the circumstances that they are in.
- It's not just an attack, it's an appeal. It goes both ways.
- Instead of dealing with the issue(s), instead of giving reasons, you attack the circumstances of the person.

This includes their position, interest or relationship.

- Example: President of Exxon wants oil drilling in a certain area. Just because he is the president does not prove that's the only reason he wants the drilling done.
- Example: You're a Christian so you should give money to this charity.
- Example: You believe in God, you're a Christian of course you do. They feel they can dismiss your view based on your circumstances.
- Example: Regarding abortion, oh you're a man. They feel that since you're a man that dismisses the argument.

Tu Quoque – Literally “You To or Your Another” (Pg. 126 Hurley)

Because of an inconsistency in ones actions, from their avowed principles or abuse or conduct is assumed or argued that therefore ones views is or are incorrect. It’s based on the fact or the alleged fact of an opponent’s hypocrisy or change of mind.

1st Form of Tu Quoque: Due to a present inconsistent behavior between ones avowed views and conduct or actions, it is argued that ones views are incorrect.

Example: A pastor takes his pregnant daughter to get an abortion, and one says...see abortion isn’t really wrong because even you can’t live like that. The point is that it still does not prove their argument on abortion being true.

The first form is based on present circumstances.

2nd Form of Tu Quoque: It’s due to an inconsistency between someone’s views in the past. Ones avowed views and or conduct or actions are different or inconsistent.

Example: Someone’s view changes over a period of time and someone say’s that they had a different view years ago.

Trivial Objection

- When someone objects or opposes an objection to a view or argument constitutes repetition thereof.
- Someone legitimately points out a flaw in your argument (it’s not a fatal flaw), but then blows you off as if that proves the original point of the argument.
- Not every premise is equal.

APPEAL TO PRIDE

Argumentum ad Populum – Appeal to the people (Pg123 Hurley, Pg. 97 Geisler)

- Well everybody is doing it...
- A select group is doing it so it must be true...
- Hollywood figures do it so it must be true...
- The intelligent community says it’s true...
- These arguments have snob appeal.

Direct ad Populum Approach

- An arguer addresses a large group of people excites the emotions and enthusiasm of the crowd to win acceptance for his or her conclusion. The objective is to arouse a kind of mob mentality.
- People will do things in a mob that they would not do by themselves.

Indirect ad Populum Approach

- The arguer aims his or her appeal not to a crowd (as a whole) but at one or more individuals separately focusing on some aspect of the relationship to the crowd.
- The indirect approach includes such specific forms as the “Bandwagon Argument, the Appeal to Vanity, and the Appeal to Sophistry.”

Consensus Gentilia

- Accept this because most people feel its true
- Well everybody is doing it...
- Truth by majority vote.
- Truth by an opinion poll.
- The majority of people do it
- Accept it because it has popular appeal. It plays to the gallery but not to the facts.
- “Bandwagon Argument (use Zest...everybody else does), the Appeal to Vanity (Join the Marines), and the Appeal to Sophistry (a Rolls Royce is not for everyone / or a special Visa card)” can also go under this category.

Argumentum ad Superbiam – Appeal to Pride

- When pride is used to persuade someone to accept some claim.
- Example: The Mormons are taught to compliment you on anything.

Is – Ought Fallacy – The Naturalistic Fallacy (Coined by E.G. Moore)

- It confuses what is the case with what (morally) ought to be the case. Whatever exist is morally proper.
- It confuses the description with the prescription or proscription.
- Example: Because 5,000 people got killed by drunk drivers it doesn't mean that it ought to be the case.
- Example: Racism exist so ergo it ought to exist.
- Example: Birth defects exist so they ought to exist.

Ought – Is Fallacy – The Fallacy of Wishful Thinking

- Whatever ought to be is the case
- Example: Someone will say that evil ought not to exist so therefore it doesn't exist. The problem is that evil does exist.
- Example: Because Christian ought to be dedicated to Christ or suppose to be good, does not mean everyone in the church therefore is.

The Fallacy of Composition (Pg. 114-115 Geisler, Pg. 167 Hurley)

- This is committed when the conclusion of an argument depends on the erroneous transfer of an attribute from a parts of something onto the whole.
- Because the parts of a whole have a certain property, it is argued that the whole has that property. That whole may be either an object composed of different parts, or it may be a collection or set of individual members.
- The fallacy occurs when it is argued that because the parts has certain attributes it follows that the whole has the attributes to. The situation is as such that the attribute in question cannot legitimately transfer parts of the whole.
- Example: The team has individually the best players on the team therefore it must be the best team.
- Example: Because sodium and chloride are harmful by themselves, putting the two together (table salt) does not necessarily make them harmful.
- Example: I know individual Christians that are bad therefore Christianity is not good.

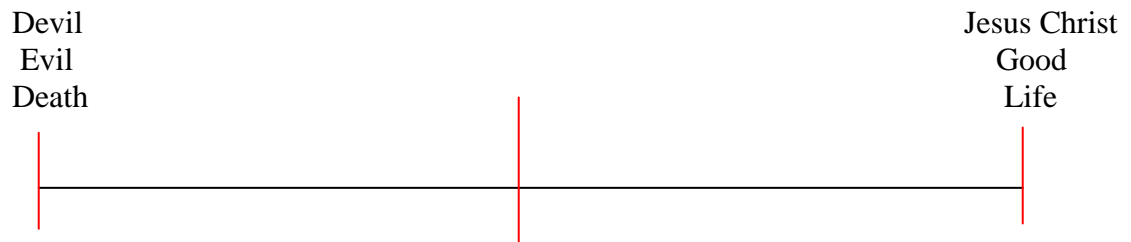
- Example: Evil exist therefore God is evil (It is a form of the fallacy).
- Example: The brick wall is six feet tall. Thus, the bricks in the wall are six feet tall.
- Example: Germany is a militant country. Thus, each German is militant.
- Example: Conventional bombs did more damage in W.W. II than nuclear bombs. Thus, a conventional bomb is more dangerous than a nuclear bomb.
- It is related to the fallacy of “Guilt by Association.”

The Fallacy of Division (Pg. 115 Geisler, Pg. 169 Hurley)

- This is committed when the conclusion of an argument depends on the erroneous transfer of an attribute from a whole of something onto it’s parts.
- Because the whole has a certain property, it is argued that the parts have that property. The whole in question may be either a whole object or a collection or set of individual members.
- Example: Salt is ok therefore sodium and chloride would be ok to take.
- Example: Because a team won the championship therefore it must mean that they had the best individual players at each position.
- Example: Because that everybody in the church should be good therefore we assume that everyone in the church is good.
- Example: Each brick is three inches high, thus, the brick wall is three inches high.
Example: Because the brain is capable of consciousness, each neural cell in the brain must be capable of consciousness.
- It is related to the fallacy of “Innocence by Association.”

The Continuum Fallacy - The Fallacy of the Beard (Pg. 110 Geisler)

- The question is...When is it a beard and when is it a growth? When is the cut-off point?
- It’s also known as the fallacy of continuum. A continuum is a scale that keeps going.
- Reject this because it differs only in degree from what you already reject.
- Point #1: It’s the idea that slight or subtle differences are insignificant. There’s no real difference.
- One of the key phrases is “Don’t split hairs or your splitting hairs.”
- Point #2: Because there is such a variety or spectrum of X’s (the extremes), there is no real difference.
- Example: There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us then it behooves none of us to talk about any of us.
- Example: The abortion issue...when does life begin? The demarcation is very slight.
- Example: When someone falls into a coma, it may be extremely difficult to determine when you cross the demarcation of life and death. That fact remains that there still is the line of demarcation between life and death.



The fallacy says that there is no line of demarcation but in fact there is.

The Fallacy of Hypothesis Contrary to Fact

- When you take a might have been, a condition that never really existed and make it a genuine premise in a serious argument, you have committed Hypothesis contrary to fact.
- In an argument you say “let’s pretend that”... well the that did not happen.
- Example: What if Hitler never existed, WWII never would of happened. This is not necessary true. It could be the case but we just don’t know.
- People will conjure up something that is not going to happen to try to make their argument.

Argumentum ad Ignorantiam or Appeal to Ignorance - Argument from Ignorance (Pg. 95-96 Geisler, Pg. 140 Hurley)

- 1st Occurrence: Sighting the absence of evidence as evidence for or against a claim.
- Arguments of this form assume that since something has not been proven false, it is therefore true. Conversely, such an argument may assume that since something has not been proven true, it is therefore false. (This is a special case of a false dilemma since it assumes that all propositions must either be known to be true or known to be false.)
- Example: Big Foot... nobody has disproved it yet. An argument from silence. You cannot take a lack of evidence to prove your view.
- 2nd Occurrence: Absence of evidence by you (or on the part of your opponent) does not prove or establish your view.
- Example: Proving that Mormonism is false and proving the things being taught by Mormonism is not true then turning around and saying that this proves that Christianity is true. You proven your opponents view but you have not proven your view.
- Example: Since you cannot prove that ghosts do not exist, they must exist.
- Example: Since scientists cannot prove that global warming will occur, it probably won't.
- Example: Fred said that he is smarter than Jill, but he didn't prove it, so it must be false.

REDUCTIVE FALLACIES

Nothing Buttery Fallacy

- It argues that something is nothing but some aspect of it.
- People say “nothing but” and they reduce it to whatever level.

Over-Simplification

- Description or explanation on one level does not necessarily exclude or invalidate a description on another level. This fallacy is committed when one assumes or argues that an analysis on any one level or on any number of levels, but short of the sufficient number of levels necessary in order to fully analyze X (whatever X is) constitutes a complete analysis.
- Example: What is this Bible made of? If you only mention paper, leather, words etc., you are oversimplifying what it really is or what the main description of the Bible is.
- Example: Man is just an animal; you are what you eat;
- Example: Well that's your interpretation... Use the rule of apologetics...

The Genetic Fallacy – Damning the Origin

- It's the idea that you're dismissing something because of its source or origin.
- An argument or a proposition or practice or thing is dismissed or denied simply because of its source of origin.
- Bottom line...forget the source, is it true? Does it correspond to reality?
- Example: Did Aristotle create or invent logic.

Bad Seed Fallacy

- The bad seed is almost like the genetic fallacy but it is a person.
- It's like you from the bad part of town; You from the other side of the track; His father is an alcoholic etc.

The Psycho-Genetic Fallacy

- Its reducing or explaining away ones views or beliefs down to simply or only an alleged (real or imagined) psychological state.
- What were after is the evidence.
- Example: That's just a hormonal imbalance...

FALLACIES OF PRESUMPTION

Petitio Principii (Postulation of the Beginning)

- Circular Reasoning or Begging the Question
- Assuming the very thing to be proved as the proof itself.
- The argument is sneaked into the premise.
- Aristotle says...The good is that which a good man approves and that a good man is one who approves of that which is good.
- Plato says... Do the gods love the good because its good or is it good because the gods love it.
- The circle has to be grounded by something.
- Example: Evolution...How do you know how old the fossil is? Because of the age of the rock. Well how do you know how old the rock is? Because of the fossil.
- Example: How do you know Mormonism is true? I know J. Smith is the prophet of god and he gives us the Book of Mormons. How do you know J. Smith is a prophet of god? Because I read the Book of Mormons and I prayed and got the burning of the bosom and I know the Book of Mormon is true.

Faulty Dilemma / Black & White Fallacy / False Dichotomy (Pg.110-112 Geisler)

- First way Faulty Dilemma occurs: A or B (A therefore not B) or A or B (not A therefore B).
- There are some instances where there is only A or B. It's only a fallacy when someone only gives you two options and then rules out one of them and says therefore its got to be this one.
- Second way that Faulty Dilemma occurs: When someone tells you that you only two choices where in fact there are more than two.
- Third way that Faulty Dilemma occurs: When someone does not have all the options available or stated.

- A limited number of options (usually two) is given, while in reality there are more options. A false dilemma is an illegitimate use of the "or" operator.
- Putting issues or opinions into "black or white" terms is a common instance of this fallacy.
- Example: The Plaque that God puts on a group of people. Should the doctor help the people and seemingly fight against God or should he do nothing and please God. This is a false dichotomy. He should help the people which would be pleasing to God.
- Example: Either you're for me or against me.
- Example: America: love it or leave it.
- Example: Either support Meech Lake or Quebec will separate.
- Example: Every person is either wholly good or wholly evil.
- This is the most committed fallacy.

Fallacy of Special Pleading or Suppressed Evidence (Pg. 102 Geisler, Pg. 162 Hurley)

- It's applying so-called universal applicable principles to everyone but oneself without a legitimate quantifier. This rule applies to everyone but the person. There are some exceptions but they must be legitimate exceptions.
- Example: An officer stops you for going off the road (which is illegal) but the reason you went off the road was to swerve from hitting a tire in the road.
- Special Pleading says that mine need special attention, mine are unique and therefore I want special attention.
- The second way this is done is by only sighting evidence that appears to support or proves one positions.
- Example: JW use anyone or any sources that support their view.
- Also known as the obvious fallacy
- When someone says to you "its obvious," beware, because its not always obvious.
- Other remarks that are made are as follows "Everybody knows that... The whole world knows that"... It doesn't take a scientist to figure that out."
- The idea is "the claim is beyond dispute or doubt. It's a fallacy because no evidence is presented.
- It would be silly to believe in creationism.

Fallacy of Complex Question or the Fallacy of Many Questions (Pg.108 Geisler)

- Combine two or more separate questions and ask them as if they are one question and simply ask for a yes or no answer.
- Example: Attorneys who ask questions in court and then say "yes or no answer."
- Example: Will that be check or charge.
- Example: Are you buying this car...yes or no. They are assuming the sale.

Question Begging Epitates (Embellishment)

- Its committed when describing an issue epitates are applied to it which not only describe it but evaluate it. Instead of inducing the issue in neutral non-bios terms, one uses it in derogatory language.
- It's a title tagged onto a person or a thing.
- It's Question Begging
- Example: When you don't refer someone as The Senator from Georgia but you would call them the tax monger from Georgia.
- The new and improved Tide
- Side Point: The rule is he or she who frames the issue wins the debate.

Question Begging Definitions Fallacy (Only Those who Agree w/ Me Fallacy)

- These hedge or protect your view(s) from being disproved by the definition(s) being used.
- You do this by changing the definition while giving a counter example.
- You change the definition of your view so you can't be falsified to protect your view.
- Example: Teachers should never give A's... Well I know teachers who give A's.... I mean good teachers should never give A's.
- Example: So and so believes that... Well Bible scholars don't believe that... Real Bible scholars.
- It's not that you can't change your view if it's in light with the facts and evidence, but you should not keep changing the definition to protect your view.

Half Concealed Qualification Fallacy

- In this case, the words themselves express a limited claim, but the emphasis or accent is downplayed, washed over, covered or hidden.
- The qualifying word or words are half concealed, hidden or downplayed by the sentence structure. Although the qualification is there, it is papered over. You should watch for this especially when it is a long or convoluted sentence or paragraph. Lost in the shuffle.
- Example: Someone says...In almost EVERY SINGLE CASE; FREE... FREE... FREE

Hedging Your Bet Fallacy

- This is deliberate use of ambiguous language or a meaning to protect your position or argument.
- Example: Astrologers saying one thing, it does not happen and so they hedge their bet.
- Example: Economist when it comes to the stock market.
- There are basically two ways that this is done. The first is you choose your phrases carefully so they can change their meaning.
- Example: You ask your kids what time are they going to be home tonight? I don't want you out to late... The kids response is... I know you don't. Trust me, I'll be home at a reasonable hour. They get home at 3 in the morning and they tell the parents that with all that was going on, 3 o'clock was a reasonable hour. The kids played on the ambiguity.
- The second way is by putting forth 3-4 or 5 examples and you champion the right one after the fact.
- Example: See I told you... or As I said... ,
- The people who use these the most are astrologers, weather persons, economist and sports announcers.

Poisoning the Well

- The use of unpleasant remarks in general that can apply to anyone. Normally anyone who is against your position.
- It's a set up for anyone to come along and fall into. It's a trap... you've poisoned the waters and anyone who drinks from it is going to get poisoned.
- The idea is that you poison the well to insight ridicule.
- It's a deterrent to keep others from disagreeing with you.
- The person appears so foolish that the real issue is obscured. The evidence for the issue is obscured. You want to hide the evidence.
- The real issue is obscured, lost or never even comes to the persons mind.
- Ones opponent is not seen as reliable or trustworthy (the source of information).
- The goal is to in advance discredit the source (the information).
- Example: Norman Geisler, his opponents discredited him on a case dealing with creation and evolution by bringing up his views on UFO's and demonic beings which had no relevance with evolution.
- Example: Only a person with defective judgment could possibly believe that...
- Example: Only an ideate would believe this... Only a fundamentalist believes that...

Loaded Language Fallacy

- This is not just pejorative, its not just derogatory but it can be praiseworthy as well.
- It is also known as a motive or emotional language. Pejorative or laudatory language.
- The problem is that these words don't add any new information to the argument.
- You commit the fallacy of loaded language if the vocabulary does not add anything new or any new information to the discussion or to the debate but tries to unduly bias the listener or readers.
- Example: If I am against them...then they are terrorist. If I am for them...Then they are freedom fighters. No evidence was given, they just made the statement.
- Example: Their Goons are after us vs. their Patriots; Bully's vs. Protectors; Dictator vs. Imposing Marshall Law.
- Again, its only loaded language when its done without the evidence.

Shifting the Burden of Proof Fallacy

- He or she who asserts, bears the burden of proof.
- One who makes an assertion must assume the responsibility of defending it. If this responsibility or burden of proof is shifted to a critic, you have the fallacy of presupposition.

FALLACIES OF RELEVANCE

Argumentum ad Vercundiam (Pg.98 Geisler)

- A legitimate appeal to an illegitimate authority or a illegitimate appeal to an legitimate authority.
- Example: You appeal to someone outside of their specialty.
- Example: Celebrities selling products. What do they know about these products.
- Your taking an expert outside of their area of expertise.
- The bottom line is what is the evidence!
- Don't tell me your degrees, where is your evidence.

Guidelines to Follow

- 1. Should be a legitimate authority (Are they a real authority).
- 2. Don't use an expert outside of their area or expertise (Celebrities fall into this).
- 3. Even experts can be wrong. What's your evidence? – Think for yourself.
- 4. Ask for the evidence (facts – data – reason). Why do you hold your view? Why should I believe this. Hoover says ...many expert can amass a mountain of facts on a certain topic, but fail to relate them properly or fail to draw proper inferences from them.
 - a. You need to know...What Doesn't Follow, What May Follow and What Must Follow.
 - b. Some experts are more reliable & trustworthy than others
- 5. Deal with the issue yourself the best you can.
- 6. Beware of unidentified authority (a yellow [not red] flag).
 - a. Top Scientist; Top Breeders... I want to know who are they.
- 7. Beware of Celebrities pitching products. Who really cares what they think.
- 8. If there's money to be made, there's someone there to pitch it. This should bring up a yellow flag.
- 9. A Checklist to follow:
 - a) Are they a real authority? Are they recommended by people in their field?
 - b) Do they have pre-requisite innate ability and or develop ability talent.
 - c) Do they have pre-requisite experience (the school of hard knocks).
 - d) Are they in the position to obtain the fact or information? Do they have access to the facts? Are they privy to the information?
 - e) If possible...pre-requisite training (education). You want the pre-requisite to help draw proper conclusions. It helps you hone your ability to go from a merely intuitive ability to a hone ability to draw or extrapolate proper conclusions from the data. It is no enough to merely know the data, one must be able to think properly with it. To know the data is necessary but not sufficient.
 - f) Are they not unduly biased?

- g) Always remember that great men make great mistakes.

MISC. FALLACIES

Straw Man Fallacy (Pg. 101-102 Geisler, Pg. 129 Hurley)

- One uses a distorted, exaggerated (intentionally or not), or weakened versions of an argument or view. Then they refute it and then assume that one has refuted the actual view in question.
- Instead of the stronger or more plausible view, they take the weaker version of the argument.
- Example: Take your opponents weaker position (distorted or exaggerated), you attack it and run it up the flag pole and then say you refuted your argument. What you did was beat up on a straw man. That's why they call it a straw man.
- Example: They see TBN and beat up on something they hear (a weak argument) and then make a point that Christianity is not true.

Missing the Point Fallacy (Ignoratio Elenchi) (Pg. 130 Hurley)

- Ignorance of the Proof. It's a non-sequitur
- The fallacy occurs when the premises of an argument support one particular conclusion, but then a different conclusion, often vaguely related to the correct conclusion is drawn.
- Most people just simply draw the wrong conclusion. They miss the point.
- Example: Theft is getting out of control. Our only alternative is to make theft legal.

Red Herring Fallacy (Pg. 131 – 133 Hurley)

- This fallacy is committed when the arguer diverts the attention of the reader or listener by changing the subject to a different but sometime suddenly related one. He or she then finishes by either drawing a conclusion about a different issue or by merely presuming that some conclusion has been established. By so doing the arguer purports to have won the argument.
- This can be confused with the Straw Man because both have the effect of drawing the reader/listener off the track.
- The Straw man does (intentional or not), distorting, exaggerating or weakening the position, beating it up and saying you defeating it where the Red Herring draws the issue off on another issue, then draw a conclusion or not and go on as if they refuted it. They draw a conclusion but it is irrelevant to the premises. Straw Man and Red Herring both have the effect of drawing the reader/listener off the track.
- This confusion can usually be avoided by remembering the unique ways they accomplish this purpose. In the Straw Man, the arguer begins by distorting an opponents argument that concludes by knocking down the distorted argument. In the Red Herring fallacy, the arguer ignores the opponents argument (if there is one), and suddenly changes the subject. To distinguish the two fallacies, one should attempt to determine whether an arguer is knocking down or distorted an argument or simply changing the subject.
- Both of these fallacies are susceptible of being confused of missing the point because all three involve a similar kind of irrelevancy.
- To avoid confusion, both Red Herring and Straw Man proceed by generating a new set of premises. Whereas missing the point does not. Straw Man draws a conclusion from the premises that are obtained by distorting an earlier argument. Red Herring (if it draws any conclusion at all) draws one from new premises obtained by changing the subject. Missing the Point draws the conclusion from the original premises but the problem is that there wrong.

LINGUISTIC FALLACIES (Pg. 164-166 Hurley)

The Root Fallacy

- This fallacy takes the root or components of a word and assuming that the meaning always follows from simply taking the component, putting them together and that gives you its meaning.
- Example: Butter Fly, Fire Truck... If you put the words together, you will get different definitions.
- One of the most enduring of errors, the root fallacy pre-supposes that every word actually has a meaning bound up with its shape or its components.

Etymological Fallacy

- Point #1: Take the derivation of a word (the original meaning), an earlier meaning of a word, or you take the compound of the word and you say that's what that word means today.
- Example: 20 Years ago you could tell someone your gay whereas today you cannot make that remark unless you want to get some strange looks.
- It normally takes the earlier meaning and applying it today.
- Example: The word Martyr has five meanings:
 - a) One who gives evidence in or out of court..
 - b) One who gives solid witness to ones faith.
 - c) One who witnesses to personal faith even in the face of death.
 - d) One who witnesses to personal faith by the acceptance of death.
- Words change meaning over a period of time

The One Meaning Fallacy

- The word has one and only one meaning in Scripture.
- Example: The Word Logos; Sarx meaning flesh, skin, body (fallen nature)

Expanding the Symantec Field Fallacy

- This is the idea that this word can mean a bunch of things therefore it does mean it here.
- Because a word can mean this therefore it must mean this in context.
- Example: Ram...what do we mean? Memory, Animal, Football Team, The Truck.

Unwarranted Restriction of the Symantec Field

- If the word normally does not mean something then therefore it can't mean that.
- Example: A word might be used 100 times. If it has the same definition in 98 of it usages then it therefore must mean the same thing in the other 2 even if it does not fit the context.
- The key is what does the word mean in its context.

FALLACIES OF EQUIVOCATION (Pg. 164 Hurley)

Equivocation Fallacy

- A word, phrase or paragraph has two or more meanings and the person plays off of the multiple moving.
- The person uses the word in two or more senses in an argument.
- Example: God is not a respecter of person. It means that God does not play favorite... He in fact does respect all.
- Example: Jesus is God, God is triune therefore Jesus is triune. They are equivocating fallacy (they are using the 4 term fallacy) because the middle term is non-distributive.
- Example: Mormons using the word God or what it means to be deified. They equivocate on the Word God. The question is...What does God mean to Mormons?
- Example: The Roman Catholic Church and the word "tradition."
- Example: The word Logos is equivocated.
- Example: Criminal actions are illegal, and all murder trials are criminal actions, thus all murder trials are illegal. (Here the term "criminal actions" is used with two different meanings.
- Example: The sign said "fine for parking here", and since it was fine, I parked there.
- Example: All child-murderers are inhuman, thus, no child murderer is human.
- Example: A plane is a carpenter's tool, and the Boeing 737 is a plane, hence the Boeing 737 is a carpenter's tool.

Euphemism Fallacy

- Taking something and making it sound kinder or gentler than it is. Your taking the word and toning it down. Your referring to the same thing but only using more toned down definitions.
- Example: Saying Pro-Choice rather than Pro-death.
- Example: Nazi Germany – The place where they took the elderly to kill them was called the “Right Group of Sanitarium and Nursing Homes.” Where the children were to be experimented on was called the “Children Specialty Department”.

AMPHIBOLE FALLACIES

Prestige Jargon Fallacies (4 Categories)

- When someone tries to use big words to express something in a complicated manner to deceive people (intentionally or not). When these words are used in place of a good argument.
- Your not right...you just sound right.

1st Form:

Euphemism Fallacy

- Taking something and making it sound kinder or gentler than it is. Your taking the word and toning it down. Your referring to the same thing but only using more toned down definitions.
- Example: Saying Pro-Choice rather than Pro-death; Saying Moral Lapse instead of Adultery
- Example: Nazi Germany – The place where they took the elderly to kill them was called the “Right Group of Sanitarium and Nursing Homes.” Where the children were to be experimented on was called the “Children Specialty Department”.

2nd Form

Blinding by Science

- The use of sophisticated sounding scientific terminology to try to make your point in place of sound evidence or reason.
- Example: If someone is selling paper towels, instead of calling it paper towels, they call it the new K-11 industrial paper towel with hydro-fibers intertwined in it to make it stronger.
- Example: The hairspray that men would spray on the bald spot of their head. They called this product the GLH Spray and the GLH stands for Great Looking Hair. They made it sound scientific.

3rd Form

Word mongering

- The use of polysyllabic words or simply verbosely (meaning a lot of words). The use of large complicated words and or just a lot of words in the place of good sufficient arguments, evidence or reason to make ones case. Its not simply using a lot of words or simply using big words, its using them in the place of reason and sufficient evidence.
- You are trying to intimidate or impress your audience and or opposition to make them think your right by using simply big fancy words or and a lot of them.
- It could be bombastic, sophisticated, complex, technical language in place of or without sufficient evidence or reason.

4th Form

Titles

- Using your title only to try to snow someone and to not give sufficient evidence or reason.
- Example: A man used the HSG after his name which meant High School Graduate. Others are like “Sanitation Engineer.”

CAUSAL FALACIES or FALSE CAUSE FALLICIES

- It is common for arguments to conclude that one thing causes another. But the relation between cause and effect is a complex one. It is easy to make a mistake.
- In general, we say that a cause C is the cause of an effect E if and only if:
 - (i) Generally, if C occurs, then E will occur, and
 - (ii) Generally, if C does not occur, then E will not occur either.
- We say "generally" because there are always exceptions. For example:

We say that striking the match causes the match to light, because:

 - (i) Generally, when the match is struck, it lights (except when the match is dunked in water), and
 - (ii) Generally, when the match is not struck, it does not light (except when it is lit with a blowtorch).
- Many writers also require that a causal statement be supported with a natural law.
- For example, the statement that "striking the match causes it to light" is supported by the principle that "friction produces heat, and heat produces fire".
- The following are causal fallacies:
 - Non Causa Pro Causa (Not the cause for the cause)
 - Post Hoc (Because one thing follows another, it is held to cause the other)
 - Joint Effect (A purported cause and effect are both the effects of a joint cause)
 - Insignificant (The purported cause is insignificant compared to others)
 - Wrong Direction (The direction between cause and effect is reversed)
 - Complex Cause (The cause identified is only part of the entire cause)

Non Causa Pro Causa (Not the Cause for the Cause)

- Example: People confuse works with salvation. They think that it is the works that save them. The works are not the cause for the cause of salvation. The cause of salvation is the finished work of Jesus Christ plus nothing. The works are the effect, there not the cause... there the effect of the cause.
- What happens is that your putting the cart before the horse.

Post hoc ergo Propter hoc

- The name in Latin means "after this therefore because of this". This describes the fallacy. An author commits the fallacy when it is assumed that because one thing follows another that the one thing was caused by the other.
- Example: I took EZ-No-Cold, and two days later, my cold disappeared.
- Example: Immigration to Alberta from Ontario increased. Soon after, the welfare rolls increased. Therefore, the increased immigration caused the increased welfare rolls.

Joint Effect

- One thing is held to cause another when in fact both are the effect of a single underlying cause. This fallacy is often understood as a special case of post hoc ergo propter hoc.
- Example: (i) We are experiencing high unemployment which is being caused by a low consumer demand. (In fact, both may be caused by high interest rates.)
- Example: (ii) You have a fever and this is causing you to break out in spots. (In fact, both symptoms are caused by the measles.)

Wrong Direction

- The relation between cause and effect is reversed.
- Example: Cancer causes smoking.
- Example: The increase in AIDS was caused by more sex education. (In fact, the increase in sex education was caused by the spread of AIDS.)

Complex Cause

- The effect is caused by a number of objects or events, of which the cause identified is only a part. A variation of this is the feedback loop where the effect is itself a part of the cause.
- Example: The accident was caused by the poor location of the bush. (True, but it wouldn't have occurred had the driver not been drunk and the pedestrian not been jaywalking.)
- Example: The Challenger explosion was caused by the cold weather. (True, however, it would not have occurred had the O-rings been properly constructed.)
- Example: People are in fear because of increased crime. (True, but this has led people to break the law as a consequence of their fear, which increases crime even more.)

Insignificant

- The object or event identified as the cause of an effect is a genuine cause, but insignificant when compared to the other causes of that event. Note that this fallacy does not apply when all other contributing causes are equally insignificant. Thus, it is not a fallacy to say that you helped cause defeat the Tory government because you voted Reform, for your vote had as much weight as any other vote, and hence is equally a part of the cause.
- Example: Smoking is causing air pollution in Edmonton. (True, but the effect of smoking is insignificant compared to the effect of auto exhaust.)
- Example: By leaving your oven on overnight you are contributing to global warming.