

Types of Argumentative Fallacies

False Dilemma: An argument with a false premise. It presents an either-or choice when there are obviously other alternatives.

Slippery Slope: If then, if then, if then, if then, etc.

Straw Man: Making your own position seem stronger by making the opposing position appear weaker than it actually is.

Affirming the Consequent: If A, then B. B, therefore A.

Denying the Antecedent: If A, then B. Not A, therefore not B.

Equivocation: When a crucial word or expression shifts meaning in an argument.

Begging the Question: The conclusion is only restating the premise.

Appeal to Force: You will be hurt if you don't agree.

Appeal to Pity: Something will be hurt if you don't agree.

Prejudicial Language: Using negative adjectives when describing something.

Appeal to Authority: Using the opinions of influential people to sway someone's thinking, even though the opinion might be wrong. e.g. The president said it, so it must be true.

Attacking the Person: Using irrelevant mud-slinging to disprove someone's argument. e.g. Men who say war is wrong are cowards, so you shouldn't listen to them.

Note: Straw Man, Prejudicial Language, and Attacking the Person are all similar but there are slight differences. Attacking the Person is when you actually have a valid argument, but you try to win by ripping on the opposition, whereas Straw Man doesn't really have an argument, but they make it seem like they do by ripping on the opposition. Prejudicial Language isn't trying to win an argument; it's just using unnecessary negative adjectives to create a bias against something, which might later give them leverage.