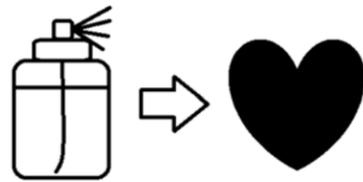
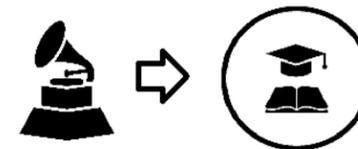


Argument Fallacies



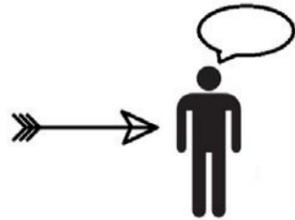
Non Sequitur

- Literally means “it does not follow”
- Just because the first part of the statement is true doesn’t mean that the second part will necessarily happen or become true.
- *If I wear this cologne, I will get a girlfriend.*



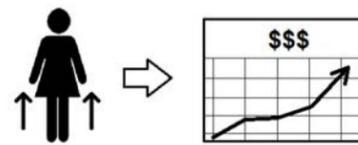
False Authority

- Makes the assumption that an expert in one field can be credible in another.
- *We must stop sending military troops to Afghanistan, as Bruce Springsteen has argued.*



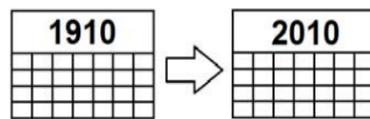
Ad Hominem

- A personal attack on an opponent that draws attention away from the issue.
- *You can’t believe Jack when he says the proposed policy would help the economy.*
- *He doesn’t even have a job.*



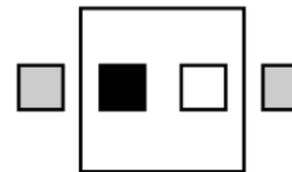
False Cause

- “Post hoc, ergo propter hoc”: Because one thing follows another, it is also the direct result of it.
- “Correlation does not necessarily imply causality.”
- *Rising hemlines are followed by an increase in ice cream sales.*



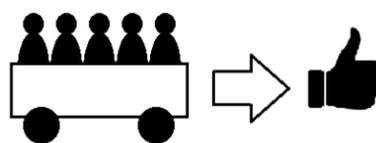
Appeal To Tradition

- Claims that something should be done a certain way because it’s been done that way in the past.
- *Binge drinking is part of the college experience; to eradicate it now would deprive college students of this important initiation into adulthood.*



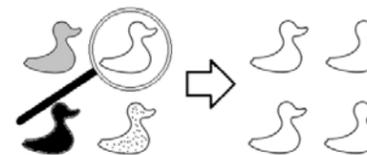
False Dilemma

- Simplifies a problem to an either/or situation.
- Makes a claim that only two alternatives exist, when there are more than two.
- *We must build more nuclear power plants, or be completely dependent on foreign oil.*



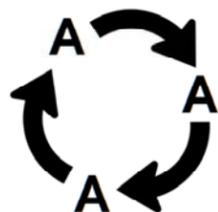
Bandwagon

- Claims that if a large group of people agree with a claim or participate in an activity, then it is correct.
- *Everyone drives over the speed limit, so we should raise it.*



Hasty Generalization

- Makes a conclusion based on too little evidence or on exceptional or biased evidence.
- *Ellen is a poor student because she failed her first history test.*



Begging the Question

- Assumes what it needs to prove.
- *I am an A student; therefore, you should change my paper grade from a C to an A.*



Oversimplification

- Makes a statement or argument that leaves out relevant considerations in order to imply that there is a single cause or solution to a given problem.
- *Education today is not as good as it used to be. Obviously, teachers are not doing their jobs.*



False Analogy

- The assumption that because two things are alike in some ways, they’re alike in other ways.
- *The US lost credibility with other nations during the war in Vietnam, so we should not get involved in the Middle East, or we will lose credibility again.*



Slippery Slope

- Makes an assumption that if one thing is allowed, it will be the first step in a downward spiral.
- *Handgun control will lead to a police state.*