

It is a time to cheer the beloved President of God's chosen people, till the whole world is vocal with American loyalty to the American government.

Fellow Americans, we are God's chosen people. Yonder at Bunker Hill and Yorktown His providence was above us... We cannot fly from our world duties; it is ours to execute the purpose of a fate that has driven us to be greater than our small intentions. We cannot retreat from any soil where Providence has unfurled our banner; it is ours to save that soil for liberty and civilization. For liberty and civilization and God's promise fulfilled, the flag must henceforth be the symbol and the sign to all mankind—the flag!

## FALLACY DETECTION: ANALYZING A CURRENT PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

Following is President George W. Bush's opening statement at a news conference (April 14, 2004), concerning the state of the war in Iraq. Identify any fallacies you think are being used.

Thank you. Good evening. Before I take your questions, let me speak with the American people about the situation in Iraq. [These have] been tough weeks in that country. Coalition forces have encountered serious violence in some areas of Iraq. Our military commanders report that this violence is being instigated by three groups. Some remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime along with Islamic militants have attacked coalition forces in the city of Falluja. Terrorists from other countries have infiltrated Iraq to incite and organize attacks.

In the south of Iraq, coalition forces face riots and attacks that are being incited by a radical cleric named al-Sadr. He has assembled some of his supporters into an illegal militia and publicly supported the terrorist groups, Hamas and Hezbollah.

## 44 DIRTY TRICKS TO WIN AN ARGUMENT

- Accuse your opponent of doing what he/she is accusing you of** (or worse)
- Accuse him/her of sliding down a slippery slope** (that leads to disaster)
- Appeal to authority**
- Appeal to experience**
- Appeal to fear**
- Appeal to pity** (or sympathy)
- Appeal to popular passions**
- Appeal to tradition or faith** ("the tried and true")
- Assume a posture of righteousness**
- Attack the person** (and not the argument)
- Beg the question**
- Call for perfection** (demand impossible conditions)
- Create a false dilemma** (the great either/or)
- Devise analogies** (and metaphors) **that support your view** (even if they are misleading or "false")
- Question your opponent's conclusions**
- Create misgivings: Where there's smoke, there's fire**
- Create a straw man**
- Deny or defend inconsistencies**
- Demonize their side, sanitize yours**
- Evade questions, gracefully**
- Flatter your audience**
- Hedge what you say**
- Ignore the evidence**
- Ignore the main point**
- Attack evidence** (that undermines your case)
- Insist loudly on a minor point**
- Use the hard-cruel-world argument** (to justify doing what is usually considered unethical)
- Make sweeping, glittering generalizations**
- Make much of any inconsistencies in your opponent's position**
- Make your opponent look ridiculous** ("lost in the laugh")
- Oversimplify the issue**
- Raise nothing but objections**
- Rewrite history** (have it your way)
- Seek your vested interests**
- Shift the ground**
- Shift the burden of proof**
- Spin, spin, spin**
- Talk in vague generalities**
- Talk double-talk**
- Tell big lies**
- Treat abstract words and symbols as if they were real things**
- Throw in a red herring** (or two)
- Throw in some statistics**
- Use double standards** (whenever you can)