

In Informal Logic (logic based on the credibility of the content rather than the correctness of the form) fallacies are mistakes in logical arguments. Those mistakes can damage or destroy an argument's validity or, even if valid, its soundness. Fallacies can make a strong argument weak, and can nullify a weak argument completely. Remember, however, that a fallacy is an argument. There are no fallacious opinions, beliefs, or assertions.

Note: In reality, a fallacious argument can be valid or invalid (but never sound). In this Introductory class, however, to lessen confusion, a fallacious argument will be deemed invalid, and an invalid argument will be fallacious.

The three major categories of fallacies that introductory students should be familiar with are Relevance, Circular Reasoning, and Semantic.

A. FALLACIES OF RELEVANCE

These occur when the premises (evidence) are not very relevant or are not directly connected to the conclusion. Such fallacies are also often called "Missing the Point" mistakes in reasoning. Fallacies of Relevance are most often logical mistakes intended to avoid, or misdirect away from, the real issue. Such fallacies include:

1. The Non Sequitur (It does Not Follow/Irrelevant Reason.) This is the most common fallacious argument and it is the classic model for this category. It is a conclusion based on one thing, idea, or position while the evidence submitted to support that conclusion is tangential at best, and irrelevant (but somewhat related) to the conclusion at worse.

EXAMPLES

- a. Mrs. Jones, let me make one thing clear: In this office no one smokes! Got that? And another thing: Because I've had to tell you about this more than once, you go straight to the closet and lock yourself in. And you can't go to the bathroom today either.

- b. Come, come, Peter. Don't take it so hard! You knew I had to leave you sooner or later. Taking your car and all the money in your bank account was just so I didn't leave empty-handed. A girl like me has needs, you know.

2. The Ad Hominem fallacy is a response argument aimed at avoiding responsibility or accountability for something. It is most commonly an attack on an opponent's age, character, family, gender, ethnicity, status, dress, appearance, behavior, religion, etc., as a distraction from the real issue at hand.

EXAMPLES

- a. Look, fool. You're stupid, ignorant and a fool besides! How dare you ask me about how I spend my money! That's way too complicated for your puny brain. Did you forget to take your medicine this morning, because you are certainly tripping?
- b. You don't know me, sir, and nothing you say interests me. You have the nerve to call me a crook, why your whole family is nothing but a witches' coven constantly cooking up bullfrog legs and swamp lies about people. Are you still in the market for a new broomstick?
3. Guilt by Association is a corollary of Ad Hominem. This is a fallacious argument based on an opponent's reputation, the company he/she keeps, etc., rather than the issue at hand.

EXAMPLES

- a. He's running for office? Well, hell no, I won't be voting for him! He used to hang around with that group of hooligans on the corner. Nothing good ever came from them, so obviously he can't be worth a quarter.
- b. Laura, dear, you can't be a saint in a whorehouse! Your reputation comes from the people you're seen with, so a word to the wise: dump that sucker!!
4. The Genetic fallacy (fallacy of origins) is another corollary of Ad Hominem. It is an argument based on a conclusion about someone's behavior, actions, feelings, intent, etc., because of prior judgments about that person's character rather than focusing on the issue or evidence at hand.

EXAMPLES

- a. She couldn't have done that! I know her. She's a nice girl! She sings in the church choir!
- b. Here we have a major irony, now don't we? Faculty members who can't write better than freshmen college students and who haven't published anything other than edited books themselves sitting in judgement of people who are real writers trying to make a difference!
5. Tu Quoque (You, too) is a third corollary of Ad Hominem. It is an argument based on avoiding responsibility for something by claiming that others are doing it too.

EXAMPLES

- a. Officer, you're not being fair here! Look at all those other people speeding!! Why are you picking on me?
 - b. Oh, wow, Dr. Horne, what's up? You're not confiscating my paper for cheating are you? I didn't do anything everybody else wasn't doing! As soon as you went out in the hall, they started passing cheat sheets around! You can't blame me for that! I just want an A too!!
6. Ad Baculum (Appeal to Force, Scare Tactics) arguments are ones intended to coerce or force agreement through the use of threat or intimidation, rather than allowing any decision on the merits of the issue at hand.

EXAMPLES

- a. Look, that's just the way it is. They want it and you have to comply. Now, if you don't believe me, then go ahead and refuse. See what happens. It'll be your behind for sure, baby. They'll hurt you and I'm not going to be in it.
 - b. Get down on the ground! Spread 'em! You heard me! Do it or die!
7. Ad Verecundiam (Appeal to Authority) arguments are those which depend upon the usage of prestige, status, respect, or the importance of a proponent or supporter of an argument for that argument's acceptance or rejection.

EXAMPLES

- a. My teacher says that I should be proud to be an American, so I guess I will be.
 - b. The Pope says no sex before marriage for real Christians. Are you ready to marry me, Paul? If not, there will be no business here tonight!
8. Ad Populum (Appeal to Popularity) arguments are those based on the idea that because a majority of people accept a belief, or the position taken in the argument is currently faddish, in vogue or popular, then that is sufficient for the argument's conclusion to be accepted.

EXAMPLES

- a. Mom, everybody's down with these Air Jordan sneaks, so you've gotta get me some too! You know I can't go to school wearing stuff from Payless and K-Mart! Are you crazy?
 - b. Hey, look, Puffy's got some new Sean Johns out and all his rappers are wearing them. That's what I want!!
9. Ad Novarum (Appeal to Newness) arguments are those in which an item's status as new automatically makes it better than other such items (or people, etc.).

EXAMPLES

- a. Don't you bring me that junk in here calling it a Christmas present! Swap Meet my foot! If it didn't come straight from Bullocks, I know it isn't squat. Stop being so cheap!
- b. Daddy, you can keep your old Mercedes! You look good in it, but not me. I need a new PT Cruiser or at least a Mini Cooper! I can't be looking like some old-school fool!!

10. Ad Misericordiam (Appeal to Pity) arguments are those based on providing emotional excuses connected to extenuating circumstances to justify unacceptable behavior. Not all such appeals are fallacious. They are mistakes in logic when the reasons given bear little relevance to the conclusion.

EXAMPLES

- a. Officer, you shouldn't give me a parking ticket! You have a family, don't you? C'mon, you know how it is! I was just gone for a minute or two. I took my crying baby to the candy store to calm him down!!
- b. I had to run in and get some milk for this baby before she drove me crazy with her crying. I don't breastfeed, you know. Doctors said it wouldn't be healthy for me or the baby. C'mon. Give me a break!

11. Ad Ignorantiam (Appeal of Ignorance) arguments are those based on accepting lack of evidence against that position as actual or positive evidence against that position.

EXAMPLES

- a. Since no one has ever proven that God exists, and I for one have never seen Him, then God must not exist.
- b. Since no one has ever proven that God does not exist, and surely rational folk could do that were it true, then it is certain that God does indeed exist!
- c. You must be guilty, since you can't prove that you're innocent.

12. Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc (After this, therefore because of this) arguments are ones purporting to show causality by mere correlation in time. In other words, because events occurred in a similar time period, one is seen as the cause of the other.

EXAMPLES

- a. There was a tremendous bolt of lightning that split Mason's tree yesterday! Right after that his daughter died. Looks like Fate went to punish Mason and hit his daughter instead!
- b. I ate a Big Mack, fries and had a supersize drink yesterday, then I got sick as a dog. That food from Mickey Dee's must have been spoiled. It made me sick.

13. Two Wrongs Make a Right is a fallacious argument based on the idea that unacceptable behavior can be and should be excused because it is just a response to a previous act of bad behavior.

EXAMPLES

- a. Look, since you hit me with that pillow (and I know you weren't giving me a love tap, here!), I just chopped off your arm. That'll teach you to mess with me!
- b. You know you shouldn't have cheated on me. But that's okay. I'm not mad at you. I just slept with all of your friends. We had a chronic party in here last night. I'm sure they'll tell you about it.

B. CIRCULAR REASONING/QUESTIONABLE PREMISES FALLACIES

Circular Reasoning/Questionable Premises Fallacies are those in which an argument assumes its own conclusion (an arguer asserts her conclusion as evidence to prove her conclusion), or in which one accepts the evidence for a position without a solid, rational reason for such acceptance and then uses that to accept a related conclusion. Generally, Circular Reasoning/Q.P. arguments are mistakes in the premises.

1. Begging the Question is the classic example of this type. It is an argument based on merely restating the premises and conclusion as the argument (even though slightly different, but equivalent, words are used).

EXAMPLES

- a. In answering the question about why my mouth stayed so dry, my doctor said it was my salivary glands. They were not producing enough saliva. (*Claim:* Your salivary glands must not be producing enough saliva to keep your mouth dry. *Premises:* Your mouth stays dry because your salivary glands are not producing enough saliva. *Question:* Why must your salivary glands not be producing enough saliva to keep your mouth from being dry? Because it just isn't producing enough saliva.)
 - b. Public nudity is immoral because it is just plain wrong and sinful! (*Claim:* Public nudity must be immoral/wrong. *Premises:* Public nudity is wrong and public nudity is sinful. *Question:* Why must public nudity be immoral and sinful? Because it is immoral and wrong.)
 - c. I don't believe Anita Hill is lying! Why would she lie? So, it's Judge Thomas who was lying! (*Claim:* Judge Thomas must be lying. *Premises:* I don't believe Anita Hill is lying and she has no reason to lie. It is Judge Thomas who lies. *Question:* Why must Judge Thomas be lying? Because he's a liar and Anita Hill is not.)
2. The Straw Man fallacy is a response argument based on identifying a small part of an opponent's prior argument, then attacking that part in exaggeration as if it is the real issue at hand.

EXAMPLES

- a. David is adamantly against special pay to attract minority teachers. He says that the argument to do such a thing advocates reverse racism in order to cure the ill effects of traditional racism. (The logical issue is whether special pay will work to attract more minority teachers. David's approach is to identify the argument for special pay as one based on reverse racism, then he attacks that point as if that was the advocate's entire argument. This is similar to identifying the entire affirmative action pro-argument as an advocacy for quotas, then attacking that as the entire affirmative action argument.)
 - b. I heard what you said! Don't try to deny it! You said anybody who would buy this old clock is really stupid! Well, who are you to call anybody stupid? If there's anybody stupid around here it certainly isn't me! (The logical issue at hand is whether the old clock is worth buying. It is not, "Who can call who stupid?" That's Straw Man.)
3. False Dilemma/False Dichotomy is an argument based on establishing a limited set of options to choose from (usually 2), when in fact there exist several others, then concluding that absent one of those options, the other is the only choice.

EXAMPLES

- a. You are looking at this the wrong way. If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.
 - b. Listen, this is the way it is. America, love it or leave it!
4. Inconsistency/Double Standard is an argument based on contradictory positions. Sometimes this occurs within the same argument or between two or more arguments by the same person over time.

EXAMPLES

- a. "I believe strongly in the right to dissent, however, I do not believe it should be exercised, and when it is, it should be punished appropriately."
 - b. "I plead guilty, your Honor, with an explanation. I'm innocent. I didn't do it. I couldn't have harmed that child."
5. Slippery Slope is an argument based on concluding a position through connecting a series of hypothetical premises in such a way that if you accept the connected premises you must accept the conclusion. Such arguments are often valid, but are based on false or questionable premises.

EXAMPLES

- a. If you step in here, you'll break your foot. Breaking your foot means you'll scream out in pain and therefore disturb daddy sleeping. Then we'll all be in trouble. So don't you dare step in here and get us in trouble!

- b. The reason for the defeat: the mighty horse went lame. Without a horse, there was no rider, and because no rider came, there was no message to name. Without a message, there was no one else to blame, so the King lost the war, his country and his claim. Because of one dumb horse, there's no miracle, no fame.

6. Reductio Ad Absurdum arguments (exaggerated slippery slopes) are those in which a series of hypothetical actions are connected to lead to a ridiculous, humorous, or absurd result in order to persuade someone to a position.

EXAMPLES

- a. Abortion is wrong and if we allow it, we'll simply create Sodom and Gomorrah anew, destroying this country in a big sexual bevy of orgies, prostitution, loose morals, and debauchery. America will become one big G-string! End abortion!!
- b. Look, I'm not going to beg you. But, it's like this. If you don't sleep with me, I'll take it as another psychological rejection. I've been rejected all my life, and a man can only stand so much. Sooner or later I'm going to rip my clothes off and run buck naked through the streets of this town yelling your name as the one who caused me to finally lose it all. They'll put me on the six o'clock news, nude, crazy, and muttering, Debbie! Debbie! Why did you treat me so bad??!

7. Extension fallacies are those in which a position or point is held to account or attacked/criticized for not doing something which in fact it was never intended to do. In other words, you stretch or extend the boundaries of a position and then attack it once you have stretched it beyond its intended limits.

EXAMPLES

- a. Susan just couldn't understand it. They must be prejudiced or something. She had gone to the school and asked for her money after reading the school's colorful brochure that invited members of the community to come and share in the financially rewarding educational experience the school offered. She had assured them that she was a community member and that she was quite willing to share in the school's financial rewards. When she became insistent, they had called security on her and escorted her off campus. She was a bit upset about that.
- b. I know you don't like me, and I certainly don't like you. Let's agree to that, shall we? Now then, get on your little motor bike and leave my house immediately. You are not to call my daughter, try and see my daughter, nor ever darken our door again!! That is appropriate.

8. Appeal to Belief is a fallacious argument based on supporting a position principally because it is an accepted, commonly held position (e.g., "Everybody knows this, so it must be true"). This fallacy is one of the consequences of a Proof Surrogate slanter that acquires a little evidence.

EXAMPLES

- a. John is a real womanizer, Mary! Everybody knows it but you! Wake up!
- b. My money is missing from the safe, Drexler. Only you and I have the combination. Now you and I both know who took it, now don't we?

9. Appeal to the Consequences of Belief is an argument that concludes a position to be the case because not to conclude it would result in negative and adverse circumstances. This fallacy is similar to Ad Ignorantiam: ATCB argues from the negative to get a positive conclusion, and hypothesizes about results that did not occur or have not occurred. It is also the most common way of putting forth an argument about what could have happened if certain situations hadn't occurred, or what can happen if situations and circumstances don't change. Thus, the central problem with this fallacy is that it frequently argues from a position that did not or has not occurred.

EXAMPLES

- a. Look, it must be true. Lady Blue is dead. If she weren't dead she would have poisoned us all by now and we are all still alive! (The claim here is, "Lady Blue must be dead." The evidence is that "if she weren't dead, we would all be dead, but we are all alive." The evidence offers a negative presumption to get to a positive result.)
- b. If Hitler hadn't ordered the Jews to be exterminated in Germany, the entire history of the Western World would be different! So, Hitler changed the course of history!

10. Taking Out of Context is a response argument based on selecting a partial quote or phrase from a person's prior position and then attacking/criticizing someone's position based on that selection. Also known as "misquoting," it is similar to Straw Man in this regard, but distinctly different otherwise. TOC depends on a written or stated position by someone being isolated from the rest of the information that person presented. This isolated portion is then used to demonstrate an example of how the person being criticized thinks or operates. By contrast, in Straw Man, the selected or isolated portion is attacked or criticized as the prior presenter's entire argument, not just a sample of how he/she thinks or operates.

EXAMPLES

- a. "Mr. Jones, now as I remember it, you just said that abortion is murder. Isn't that a position no serious candidate for office should take Mr. Jones? Aren't you committing electoral suicide?" Mr. Jones, in reply, says that the entire point was that abortion is murder to some advocates, himself not included!
- b. *Headline:* Senator accuses colleague of advocating child molestation by Catholic priests as an American pastime. *Story:* In her speech yesterday to the assembled Catholic priests of New York, Senator Clinton stated that in the mind of too many Americans viewing the Catholic Church from the outside, the view nowadays was of an institution allowing priests

to freely molest our children who come to the Church for sustenance and guidance as if that is the daily pastime of the Catholic clergy. The Church is better than that, and it should stand up for itself.

C. SEMANTIC FALLACIES

Semantic Fallacies are those in which vagueness, multiple meanings, and misleading usage deliberately lead to deception and confusion in reasoning. Semantic fallacies often appear to be and sometimes are valid, but they are not sound.

1. Equivocation, the classic example of this type, is an argument based on a deliberate attempt to manipulate or compel compliance (acceptance) with a position through confusion and ambiguous usage.

EXAMPLES

- a. Listen, it makes no sense to quibble over words here, and my calling you a fool is no big deal. It's just a word! Everybody can be fooled at some time or another, including me!
 - b. No interest payment until 2025!! This is the future of credit payments!—Then, in small print: The interest payment option is entirely dependent on a customer paying 98% of the purchase price in cash before receiving the item.
2. Composition is an argument based on saying that the characteristics of one or more parts of something or someone has the same characteristics as the whole.

EXAMPLE

- a. This book must be well written, because every sentence I've seen in it is well written.
 - b. You gave me nothing but trouble when you were in my class, so I know anybody else from your family will be just as irritating as you were.
3. Division is an argument based on saying that the characteristics of the whole of something or someone are the same for all of its parts.

EXAMPLES

- a. Every sentence in this book must be in English, and hard-to-read English at that, since I know for a fact that this is an English book and that means it is written in English!
- b. All the latest stats say that young Black men are bound for jail either sooner or later. So, when are you getting locked up, Cleve?

4. False Analogy is a semantic argument based on deceptively comparing one or several of the characteristics of a situation, event, idea, or person with that of another. It is the argument version of the Persuasive Comparison slanter.

EXAMPLES

- a. The American colonies fought for their independence in 1776, and just like them the American Football League is now fighting for its freedom and independence. Both were just and honorable causes.
 - b. You're just like a walrus eating peanut butter—blubbery, icky, and disgusting! Who would want you? Nobody but a truly desperate freak happy to get any attention from anything!
5. False Consolation (Count Your Blessings Fallacy) arguments are those based on misleadingly comparing how much worse one situation or behavior is to the one being criticized, thus discrediting that criticism.

EXAMPLES

- a. Look, baby so I don't shave and I watch football and basketball games a lot on weekends. At least you've got somebody decent to be with. Look at your sister and that crackhead roommate she's got. He's always in jail or something!
- b. Charlotte! Now have a tantrum if you want to, but there won't be any other ways for you to get to the prom. Your mother is taking you and will pick you up, and that's that! You've got decent transportation there and back and you can go! Everybody can't say that. You should be grateful!

3. Feathers are very light in weight, and since children can pick up light things, I'm sure that my two-year old son can lift a whole ton of feathers. *Evacuation*
4. "How do you know that God exists?" says One. "Because the Bible tells me he does," says the Other. "Okay, fine. But how do you know that the Bible is true, huh?" says One. "Look, fool! God doesn't lie!" says the Other. "And the Bible is the word of God. That's good enough for me! And it should be good enough for you!"
5. "A good physician certainly cures most of his patients," Bosely argued. "After all, we all know that if he's good, then he has to have a sound medical education, and a man with such a sound background has to be a good physician who can cure most of the patients."
6. I know for a fact that James Brady is a crook and a no-account scoundrel. How do I know? Why look at the company he keeps! Convicts and tax-evaders all! A man is known by his friends, after all. *guilt by association*
7. Why, you can't criticize Mr. Nixon for impounding the budgetary funds! Congress wouldn't act! Mr. Nixon is the people's representative. In order to get on with the government, he had to exert his presidential authority and freeze all government expenditures, big and small, just like every other strong president before him has done. He's doing it to force Congress to finish the whole budgetary process and send him a document he can sign. He did it for the good of the country, and the ends justify the means.
8. Harriet: "Hey, what's with all this junk food you just brought? Aren't you the one who's always railing on at me about eating healthy food?"
Bea: "Aw, don't fuss so. It was just on sale. I got a real bargain on these chips and dip!"
Harriet: "Oh."
9. Senator Sam Ervin's explanation to a group of women upset over the delay in passing the ERA: "Why, ladies, any bill that lies around here for 47 years or more without getting passed obviously shouldn't be passed at all! Why, I consider that positive proof that the darn thing is unworthy of serious consideration."
10. Lewis Carroll, in *Through the Looking Glass*: "You couldn't jam it even if you wanted to," the Queen said. "The rule is jam tomorrow and jam yesterday—but never jam today!"
"It must come sometimes to jam today," Alice objected.
"No, it can't," said the Queen. "It's jam every other day; today isn't every other day, you know."
11. Boy: "Mom, you're always saying you're sick of this sick society, right? . . . And I'm a member of society, right? . . . Well, then I'm sick too and you shouldn't make me go to school where I'll get sicker with those society people!! I don't want to go to school!"
12. Mr. Otis: "We would like to know what the Bible really means to you, Mr. President."
Mr. Reagan: "Well, I've never had any doubt about it being of divine origin. And to those who do doubt it, I challenge them to show me any similar collection of writings that have lasted for as many thousands of years as the Bible has and still is the best seller worldwide! It had to be of divine origin!" *★*
13. If you think education is expensive, you should try ignorance! The former will toast your jelly. With ignorance, you will pay and pay and pay and pay, ad infinitum.
14. I asked my doctor why my mouth was dry. My doctor said it was because my salivary glands were not producing enough saliva to keep my mouth from being dry. Great doctor, huh?

Below is a series of fallacious arguments. From the list provided, please identify the primary fallacy or fallacies committed in each example. Simply place the alphabet of the chosen fallacy next to the item.

- a. Equivocation
- b. Begging the Question
- c. Composition *→ the credit of*
- d. Division *→*
- e. Tu Quoque (You, too) *Running from responsibility*
- f. Appeal to the Consequences of Belief
- g. Ad Hominem
- h. Guilt by Association
- i. Genetic
- j. Non Sequitur/Irrelevant Reason
- k. Ad Verecundiam (Appeal to Authority)
- l. Ad Baculum (Appeal to Intimidation)
- m. Ad Populum (Appeal to Most People, or Popularity)
- n. Ad Ignorantiam (Appeal to Ignorance)
- ☒ o. Ad Misericordiam (Appeal to Pity)
- p. False Analogy
- q. False Dilemma
- r. Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc
- s. Slippery Slope
- t. Straw Man
- u. Inconsistency/Double Standard
- v. Two Wrongs Make a Right
- w. Extension
- x. Reductio Ad Absurdum (Appeal to the Absurd or Ridiculous)
- y. Appeal to Belief
- z. Quoted Out of Context
- aa. Ad Novarum
- bb. False Consolation

once its not valid

1. Look, I'm sick of you and your insensitivity. And come to think of it, I'm sick of your ungrateful attitude around here too. And while I'm at it, I'm thoroughly sick of you! I should have known that a man as inconsiderate as you was rotten through and through. You're not just one pain, you're a whole migraine!!

2. Look, Dr. Lyles, I'm sorry I missed your test. But it was like this. I had to save a student's life today, and that's why I couldn't get here. This girl, you know, she needed a ride home, and once I took her, then she needed some money, then she needed me to stay with her until her folks got back home or she said she'd die for sure. You wouldn't want me to leave someone like that without helping her through, now would you? I think I should get some sort of medal, don't you?

Ad Misericordiam (Appeal to Pity)

15. Lyndon Johnson, former president: "I believe in the right to dissent, but I do not believe it should be exercised, and when it is, it should be punished severely."
16. Patient: "Doctor, my wife left me four months ago, and I've been depressed ever since. I'm beginning to wonder. Will I ever pull out of this blue funk?"
 Doctor: "It's normal to feel a lot of anxiety and depression after a severe loss like that. But let me assure you that everyone does recover from this sort of thing. So you will, too. Unless, of course, the trauma has been so severe that your ego is shattered, then of course you have a real problem."
17. "Hunting immoral? Why should I believe that coming from you? You fish, don't you?"
18. "I don't care how serious they appear; anybody who's raking in as much money as those television evangelists can't really care about being ministers for plain, ordinary folks. I don't buy it."
19. Rita: "Four A.M.? Are you serious? Do we really have to start that early in the morning? What's the rush? Wouldn't it make more sense to sleep a little longer and leave a little later?"
 Boyd: "Get off it, Ree! I know you! You want to stay in bed until noon and then drag in at the conference at 12 midnight! Fine, but count me out! Go by yourself! To get there at a reasonable hour, we have to leave real early and not spend the whole day sleeping."
20. We should impeach the Attorney General. Despite the fact that there have been many allegations of unethical conduct on his part, he has not done anything to demonstrate his innocence. That means he's dead sure guilty of wrongdoing!
21. "Are you going to take Dr. Blake for Geography 2 this summer?"
 "Yeah, I heard he's okay."
 "Well, I had him last semester. He is pretty good but, one thing though, he'll spend a lot of time harping on ecology and the environment."
 "Phooey! Those environment guys tell us the water's bad, the air's bad, the world's not fit for dogs. Cheez! If we believe all the malarkey they give us, we'll go crazy worrying about it all! I just can't buy all that ecology crap."
 "Well, maybe. His class is still worth taking, though."
22. Since we are purposeful creatures and we are parts of the universe, the universe must be purposeful as well.
23. There is no definite link between smoking and lung cancer, despite the surgeon general's report and years of scientific studies. Therefore, smoking is not harmful to your lungs. It's okay to buy more cigarettes.
24. Leonardo da Vinci, J.M. Keynes, and Truman Capote were all homosexuals, according to the historical record. They were also great artists and writers. Clearly then, homosexuals are more creative than the general population.
25. Look, young lady, I'm the adult here. I'm grown and this is my house. You won't bring that trash back in here unless you are ready to move out and to get a job! Do you understand me? That boy is no good and I won't have you seeing him! Is that clear? *Appeal to Authority*
26. Well, all I know is that eating a piece of pie sure helps my digestion. So, sure, bring me that whole lemon pie over there. If I eat the whole thing I should never have indigestion again!
27. Officer, I was only driving three miles per hour over the speed limit. That's hardly breaking the law, now come on! The car in the next lane was racing much faster than me, yet you pulled me over and not him. He should have gotten this ticket, not me. *tu Quo que*