

Help Centres – English Support



Logical Fallacies to Support Arguments

In order to construct a strong stance in any type of essay, errors in logic or weakly designed arguments – logical fallacies—ought to be avoided. When drafting your essay, check to ensure that the development of your argument does not rely on any of the following logical fallacies:

Endorsement: Just because a celebrity endorses a product doesn't mean it's worth purchasing. Even when an expert supports a point of view, well-researched facts are still required to strengthen the veracity of the opinion.

Hasty Generalization: This occurs when a claim is based on scant examples or oversimplified evidence. To avoid hasty generalizations, make certain that you have multiple sources to support a claim.

Bandwagon: This is a case where support rests on the wobbly evidence that “everybody thinks so”. A plurality of people holding the same belief does not make it incontrovertible. “Everybody” might be wrong.

Tradition: A view or custom may be endorsed across generations; even so, the length of time a practice or opinion is supported infuses neither with absolute truth nor indisputability.

Unqualified Generalization: “Social media is the worst thing in the world for children”. The inaccuracy of the statement centres on the word “worst”. Without a doubt, there are worse things in the world for children than social media. Avoiding absolute words like “always”, “never”, and “everyone” will (always!) buttress your argument.

Faulty Cause and Effect: Not every series of events are connected. Just because “X” was elected Premier doesn't necessarily mean that she was the reason for a marked improvement in the economy three months after taking office.

Either...Or: This tactic for arguing an opinion is predicated on there only being two possible approaches to an issue. For example, “Either the government ends all fossil fuel extraction or humanity goes extinct in half a century”. A more nuanced, finessed argument considers other possibilities.

Ad hominem attack: This is defaming an opponent rather than attacking their opinion. Simply claiming that “ART records is run by greedy, Western chauvinists, which is reason enough for boycotting their artists” would only weaken an argument against supporting the label.