

# The Ten Commandments of Rational Debate

1. Thou shall **not** attack the person's character, but the **argument** itself. (*"Ad hominem"*)
2. Thou shall **not** misrepresent or **exaggerate** a person's argument In order to make them easier to **attack**. (*"Straw Man Fallacy"*)
3. Thou shall **not** use small numbers to represent the **whole**. (*"Hasty Generalization"*)
4. Thou shall **not** argue thy position by **assuming** one of its premises is **true**. (*"Begging the Question"*)
5. Thou shall **not** claim that because something occurred **before**, it must be the **cause**. (*"Post Hoc/False Cause"*)
6. Thou shall **not** reduce the argument down to two **possibilities**. (*"False Dichotomy"*)
7. Thou shall **not** argue that because of our **ignorance**, claim must be true or **false** (*"Ad Ignorantiam"*)
8. Thou shall **not** lay the burden of proof onto him that is **questioning** the **claim** (*"Burden of Proof Reversal"*)
9. Thou shall **not** assume **"this"** follows **"that,"** when **"it"** has no **logical** connection. (*"Non Sequitur"*)
10. Thou shall **not** claim that because a premises is **popular**, therefore, it **must** be true. (*"Bandwagon Fallacy"*)