

Olympic Fallacy Worksheet



Choose from the following fallacies:

Ad Hominem (AH)	Either/Or (EO)	Stereotype (ST)
Appeal to Authority (AA)	False Cause (FC)	Strawman (SM)
Appeal to Popularity (AP)	False Analogy (FA)	Two Wrongs (TW)
Begging the Question (BQ)	Hasty Generalization (HG)	None (N)
Biased Sample (BS)	Slippery Slope (SS)	

Provide explanations for the following:

1. Give an equally plausible alternate cause for False Cause
2. State the crucial dissimilarity for False Analogy,
3. Provide a reason to doubt the authority for Appeal to Authority,
4. Give an alternate choice for Either/Or

1. _____ You had better believe in God or you will go to hell. Hell isn't such a nice place you know, so you had better believe in God.

2. _____ Person #1: "The U.S. should send troops and humanitarian aid to the Congo where thousands of innocent civilians are being killed or mutilated by brutal military factions. Person #2: But if we move all of our troops to the Congo then the Iraqi situation will worsen."

3. _____ The death penalty is a deterrent. After all Governor George Bush thinks it is a deterrent to crime.

4. _____ A friend of mine was mugged and attacked in San Francisco; evidently San Francisco is not a safe city.

5. _____ Although the Earth's temperature is rising (global warming) this is probably the result of a natural long-term cycle of climate change so we are not to blame for this.

6. _____ Apples fall to the ground when dropped because of the force of gravity between the Earth and the apple.

7. _____ President Bush on Polish TV during his visit to the WW II German concentration camp Auschwitz two weeks ago (June 1): "We found the weapons of mass destruction." (New Yorker Magazine report, 6/16 issue, p. 69)

8. _____ Person #1: "I agree with James Surowiecki of The New Yorker Magazine that the FCC was wrong in its recent decision to allow media companies to expand the number of local TV stations that company can own. Just five companies among them Disney and Robert Murdoch's News Corp., own all the broadcast networks, four of the major movie studios, and 90% of the top fifty cable channels. These