

## ***Fallacies of Argumentation***

### Red Herring (Dodging the issue)

A red herring is the use of an irrelevant issue to distract the reader.

"No, I did not take out the trash, but why can't my sister do it?"

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### Begging the Question (Arguing in a circle... Circular Logic)

Ex: "All kids should own a computer because we live in a computer age."

*We **do** live in the information age; however, the above statement hardly proves why ownership is necessary. Kids can still participate in the computer age without owning a computer.*

Ex: "His solution will not work because it is unworkable"

*This example does not explain why his solution is or is not workable. This sort of argument lacks specific reasoning.*

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### Faulty Cause and Effect:

Ex: "There were fewer accidents in the 1950s because people drove larger cars."

*This reason disregards other factors: fewer cars on the road, fewer distractions, cars did not travel as fast, etc. The claim omits important factors in total number of accidents.*

EX: "Whenever the sun rises the rooster crows. Therefore, the sun rises because the rooster crows. "

### Ad Hominem (Personal Attack) :

Distracts the reader from the issue by attacking (name-calling) the people involved in the issue instead of discussing the issue itself.

Ex: "He's never been to college. He's uneducated and idiotic. Why would you trust his opinion?"

Instead of arguing fairly and logically, the speaker/writer ignores the issue and attacks the person. This is a form of red herring argument.