

PHI 106 CRITICAL THINKING

TOPIC 12:

Fallacies

Absence of reasoning

1. emotional display
2. appeal to intuition
3. appeal to instinct
4. appeal to faith

Weak reasoning

Relevance

1. appeal to tradition, past practice
2. appeal to custom, habit, common practice
3. appeal to emotion

Truth

1. questionable premise
2. suppressed evidence

Sufficiency

1. insufficient evidence
2. appeal to authority

Errors in reasoning

Errors of definition

1. excessive inclusion (too broad)
2. excessive exclusion (too narrow)
3. equivocation

Errors of form

1. appeal to ignorance
2. circular reasoning
3. affirming the consequent

4. denying the antecedent

5. broken chain
6. backwards chain
7. affirming a disjunct
8. denying a conjunct

Errors of relevance

1. appeal to ignorance
2. appeal to the person, ad hominem

- (a) to the person's character—simple positive or negative ad hominem
- (b) to the person's practices—tu quoque
- (c) to the person's interests—poisoning the well
- 3. genetic fallacy
- 4. appeal to inappropriate authority
- 5. appeal to moderation (or lack of)
 - (a) appeal to moderation
 - (b) appeal to extreme
- 6. appeal to popularity (or lack of)
 - (a) appeal to the majority, bandwagon, authority of the many
 - (b) appeal to the minority, authority of the elite
- 7. two wrongs
- 8. paper tiger, straw man
- 9. red herring
- 10. non sequitur
- 11. false analogy, faulty comparison
- 12. misapplied general principle
- 13. the is/ought fallacy
- 14. the arbitrary line fallacy

Errors of truth

- 1. appeal to ignorance
- 2. false premise
- 3. the either/or fallacy
- 4. fallacy of composition
- 5. fallacy of division
- 6. gambler's fallacy
- 7. false analogy
- 8. mistaking correlation for causation
- 9. reversing cause and effect
- 10. slippery slope

Errors of sufficiency

- 1. overgeneralization
- 2. insufficient sample
 - (a) size
 - (b) representation
- 3. weak analogy
- 4. post hoc ergo propter hoc
- 5. failing to consider a common cause
- 6. failing to consider additional causes
- 7. failing to consider a reciprocal causal relation
- 8. slippery slope

Errors of assumption (mistakenly assuming something to be true, relevant, or sufficient)

- 1. appeal to ignorance
- 2. appeal to emotion
- 3. appeal to tradition, past practice
- 4. appeal to custom, habit, common practice

5. appeal to moderation
6. appeal to popularity
7. two wrongs
8. the either/or fallacy
9. fallacy of division
10. fallacy of composition
11. insufficient sample
12. false analogy, faulty comparison
13. mistaking correlation for causation
14. post hoc propter hoc
15. failing to consider a common cause
16. failing to consider additional causes
17. reversing cause and effect
18. failing to consider a reciprocal causal relation
19. slippery slope
20. the is/ought fallacy
21. the arbitrary line fallacy

Errors of causality

1. mistaking correlation for causation
2. post hoc ergo propter hoc
3. failing to consider a common cause
4. failing to consider additional causes
5. reversing cause and effect
6. failing to consider a reciprocal causal relation
7. slippery slope

Errors of response

1. appeal to ignorance
2. appeal to the person, ad hominem
3. genetic fallacy
4. two wrongs
5. paper tiger
6. red herring

Considering the source of the argument instead of the argument itself

1. appeal to the person
 - (a) to the person's character (simple positive or negative ad hominem)
 - (b) to the person's practices (tu quoque)
 - (c) to the person's interests (poisoning the well)
2. genetic fallacy
3. appeal to authority

Appealing to an inappropriate standard

1. appeal to inappropriate authority
2. appeal to tradition or past practice
3. appeal to custom, habit, or common practice
4. appeal to moderation (or lack of)
 - (a) appeal to moderation

(b) appeal to the extreme

5. appeal to popularity (or lack of)

(a) appeal to the majority, appeal to the authority of the many, bandwagon fallacy

(b) appeal to the minority, appeal to the authority of the elite

6. two wrongs

Passing the buck instead of making the argument yourself

1. appeal to authority

2. appeal to tradition, past practice

3. appeal to custom, habit, common practice

4. appeal to moderation (or lack of)

(a) appeal to moderation

(b) appeal to extreme

5. appeal to popularity (or lack of)

(a) appeal to the majority, bandwagon, authority of the many

(b) appeal to the minority, authority of the elite

6. two wrongs

7. appeal to ignorance

Going off-topic

1. paper tiger

2. red herring

3. non sequitur

4. appeal to emotion