

Classify each fallacy of weak induction as appeal to ignorance, exceptional experience, false cause, hasty generalization, strained analogy, or unqualified authority.

1. The news this morning had an article on several teenagers arrested on drug possession charges. These days, teenagers are just a bunch of drug addicts.
hasty generalization
2. People have been trying to disprove palmistry for centuries. Since it still has not been successfully disproved, you should believe in palmistry.
appeal to ignorance
3. Evolution is like the tide. The tide goes up and down regularly, much like the evolutionist's views, which change with every wind of doctrine.
strained analogy
4. The secretaries have asked for a break room. If we grant this request, they will next want tension relief rooms and fitness centers. These facilities are beyond the company budget, so their request must be denied.
false cause
5. Joe thinks that the country needs higher taxes. This must be true since Joe checks tax returns for the government.
unqualified authority
6. Oh, don't take that class! That class was really hard and the teacher was not fair.
exceptional experience

Classify each fallacy of emotional appeal in the inductive arguments below as appeal to force, appeal to the people, appeal to pity, appeal to the purse, appeal to vanity, or argument against the person.

7. A recent famine in Bangladesh caused homeless beggars to line the streets in the capital. Thousands of children died in their mothers' arms. Surely you would want to give to help these people.
appeal to pity
8. Mr. Farmer's arguments for improving conditions in the ghetto are worthless. Mr. Farmer has a criminal record and was released from prison last year.
argument against the person
9. Save \$100 on a new dishwasher if you buy before Friday. Hurry down and buy one.
appeal to the purse
10. Consider giving me a raise. If not, I know where you live.
appeal to force
11. Since 85 percent of all women use Love perfume, you should try it.
appeal to the people
12. You want to grow up and be strong like Popeye, don't you? Then eat your spinach.
appeal to vanity

For each inductive argument below, classify the fallacy of twisted evidence as missing the point, red herring, straw man, or suppressed evidence.

13. Mr. Call said that "pork and lobster are not good for you." Mr. Call's views encourage vegetarianism, which is not necessary in this world.
straw man
14. The New Testament supports stealing since it says "let him that stole steal" (Eph. 4:28).
suppressed evidence

15. No alcoholics chose their addiction. Some are genetically predisposed to it, and the rest are trying to escape the trauma of child abuse. Alcoholics deserve our sympathy and understanding rather than our vilification.

red herring

16. Since 85 percent of all doctors recommend an exercise routine, you should buy our new Home Gym. Home Gym will help you get in your exercise.

missing the point

Answer each question.

17. When is an inductive argument strong but not cogent?

when it has a false premise

18. Define *fallacy*.

an error in reasoning that makes an argument weak or invalid

19. Name two of the three subtypes of the false cause fallacy.

any two: non causa pro causa, post hoc ergo propter hoc, slippery slope

20. Explain the significance of II Peter 3:3–6 for logic.

The passage paraphrases a false notion popular today that things happen gradually and naturally. The passage provides a counterexample in the Flood, which was neither natural nor gradual. It reveals a fallacy of inductive logic in the scoffers' thinking.