

WANTED

BY THE FALLACY POLICE



EXAMPLES OF FALLACIES:
FAULTY REASONING
POOR LOGIC
BAD ARGUMENTS



TURN IN WRITTEN EXAMPLES
TO THE TEACHER

WANTED

ARGUMENT BY ASSERTION

“I'm bigger than you are, so I'm right.”

“I'm smarter than you are, so I'm right.”

“I'm right, you're wrong,
and that's the end of it.”

Alias: “Argument by intimidation” or “appeal to force.” People who use this fallacy may threaten to fight or bully their opponents—or they actually *do* fight or bully them.

WANTED

TU QUOQUE and its known associate
TWO WRONGS

“You did it, too!”

“He hit me first!”

“She started it!”

People who use this fallacy forget the Golden Rule: Treat people the way you *want* to be treated.

WANTED

AD HOMINEM and its known associate
THE GENETIC FALLACY

“You’re a mean, nasty, bad person,
so whatever you say must be wrong.”

“Don’t listen to him—he’s a
Democrat/Republican/liberal/conservative/
atheist/Christian/Muslim/Jew.”

“It can’t be true! After all, look who said it!”

People who use this fallacy discount information
—even though it might be factual—simply
because of the messenger.

WANTED

AD POPULUM and its known associates
BANDWAGON
and APPEAL TO PITY

“Vote for Joe, a patriotic American.”

“Everyone else is doing/buying/wearing/
going to/seeing/believing it,
so you should, too.”

People who use this fallacy appeal *just* to the emotions, prejudices, or sympathies of their listeners, *not* to their ability to think clearly.

WANTED

APPEAL TO AN UNRELATED AUTHORITY

“Listen to what he says about the economy.
He’s a surgeon—he should know!”

“I know I’m right about this scientific theory.
After all, my friend who is an art historian
for the Smithsonian agrees with me.”

People who use this fallacy appeal to a real authority in one field as if that expert were also an authority in an unrelated field.

WANTED

HASTY GENERALIZATION
and its known associates
HASTY CONCLUSION
or JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.

“You three can’t jump. Girls can’t jump.”

“See, that cop took a bribe.
Obviously, all cops are corrupt.”

“I didn’t pass this test. I’m stupid.”

People who use this fallacy look at too few specific cases or examples before drawing a general conclusion.