Logical fallacies are errors that are found in reasoning and logical thinking which cause false claims in one's argument. Try to avoid these common fallacies in your own arguments and writing and be aware of them in the arguments of others.

**10 Most common Logical Fallacies**

### Non Sequitur
- **Fallacy:** States when the conclusion does not follow the main idea of the sentence.
- **Ex:** Most college are expensive and then student to go into debt. Therefore, I will not go to college because it will cost too much in debt forever.
- **Fallacy:** The conclusion of needing to go to college is mind-bending debt. Thus, it is not possible to find the fact that most colleges are expensive because there are many college programs or department that you can go into debt.

### Red Herring
- **Fallacy:** The strategy used to divert that would help you (convincing your argument instead of addressing it).
- **Ex:** The cost of college education is unnecessarily expensive. But what about using that money to help the poor?
- **Fallacy:** The subject of the argument (college being expensive) was changed and no one can argue against it (college being inexpensive). One issue may affect the other, but it does not mean that we should ignore the issue that was first mentioned.

###bandwagon
- **Fallacy:** Popular ideas, trends, or behaviors are claimed to be popular and therefore valid.
- **Ex:** Everyone says that there is not much to do here in Lakeland. Therefore, it must be true.
- **Fallacy:** Popularity, or a belief in a claim being popular, cannot be used as evidence of validity because it is based off of opinion rather than facts.

### False Authority
- **Fallacy:** Assumes, without evidence, that someone is a reliable authority on a subject.
- **Ex:** Most people understand that those who contribute to global warming are basically the upper echelons of the world.
- **Fallacy:** A small group of people can affect the world by spreading misinformation. No less issues are also related.

---

**Academic Center For Enrichment**

An office of the Center for Student Success

**Monday—Thursday**
8:00 AM—8:00 PM

**Friday**
8:00 AM—4:00 PM

**Location:** Mod 5

**Phone:** 863-667-5137

**E-mail:** ace@seu.edu
10 Most common Logical Fallacies

**Slippery Slope**

This is the idea that if A happens, then eventually through B, C, D, and E, all will happen as well. If we do not want A to occur, then all of these outcomes will happen as well.

**Ex:** If SEU gets a Chick-Fil-A on campus, then all college campuses in Lakeland will get Chick-Fil-A.

**Fallacy:** SEU getting a Chick-Fil-A on campus does not necessarily mean that all other campuses will as well. (A) does not always directly cause (Z).

**Hasty Generalization**

This is when someone notices a few examples of a characteristic and concludes because they do not have all of the relevant facts.

**Ex:** My professor gave me a low grade on the exam which must mean he does not like me.

**Fallacy:** There could be a variety of reasons as to why the professor gave a low grade. This sentence is illogical because it assumes a point without any facts to back it up.

**Circular Argument**

This occurs when someone assumes that a specific event (A) occurred after a different event (B), then (B) must have caused (A).

**Ex:** My roommate used my laptop so it does not work. My roommate must have caused the problem somehow.

**Fallacy:** The roommate using the laptop (B) does not mean that they caused the laptop not to work (A). (B) could have been caused by a variety of reasons.

**Ad Hominem**

This is when the character of a person is attacked instead of the opinions of his or her arguments.

**Ex:** Hitchens states that God does not exist, but does not follow traffic laws, so Hitchens is ultimately wrong.

**Fallacy:** Hitchens personal life does not mean that he is correct or incorrect, Hitchens personal life is separate. In order for a valid argument to be made, one must go against his claim that God does not exist rather than what his personal life is.