

Identifying Fallacies

Exercise 1

Directions: Each of the following statements contains at least one fallacy. Using the list in Appendix 3 of your text as a guide, write out the fallacies on a piece of paper. Compare your answers with your group and the whole class.

1. The school system should buy this program. Our children will either stay up with students in China and India, or they will remain ignorant, illiterate, and impoverished.
2. Ensuring progress is a lot like baking a cake. It takes using the right ingredients and following the right recipe.
3. A friend of mine, who is a student at Texas A&M, says we should not be worried about genetically-modified food, so I am not in favor of banning it.
4. This whole “global warming” thing is a hoax perpetrated by anti-business tree-huggers.
5. No one has been able to prove that transgenic crops are not a threat to the environment, so we cannot possibly allow Monsanto to continue to plant them.
6. If we allow gay couples to marry today, tomorrow people will want to allow children to marry. Before you know it, people will be marrying their pet dogs.
7. We should recall the Affordable Care Act because America was founded on the principles of self-reliance and free-market capitalism.
8. I was rear-ended by a person talking on a cell-phone. We had better pass a law against using cell-phones in cars.
9. Everyone should be happy with the election results. No one backs the liberal-socialist agenda of the Democrats who were in Washington.
10. We need to recall the health-care law; I heard that it will create government “Death Panels” to decide who will live and who will die.