

## Fallacies II

### 1 Ad Hominem Fallacy

“Your arguments that the U.S. should not use military force in Afghanistan are ridiculous. And I notice that you have a Arabic sounding last name.”

How would you rewrite the above to qualify as “guilt by association?”

Note: Once can question a person’s background in a way that is *not* fallacious:

“Look, I myself know nothing about military matters and so I am unable to assess your arguments that the U.S. should not use military force. However, you also have no background whatsoever that would qualify you as an expert in these matters and, accordingly, I cannot take your arguments very seriously.”

### 2. The “Two Wrongs Make a Right” Fallacy

“Terrorists have killed large numbers of innocent Americans in their attacks on September 11. Accordingly, no reasonable person can object if the United States, in retaliating against these attacks kills civilians too.”

How would you rewrite the above to qualify as fallacy of “common practice and traditional wisdom?”

### 3. Non Sequitor (Fallacy of Irrelevant Reason)

“Most Americans cannot even find Afghanistan on a map. So it is hard to see how the U.S. can intervene in that country and expect to win.”

### 4. Fallacy of Equivocation

A socialist politician in Germany: “Vote socialist. Remember that the heart beats to the left.”

### 5. Fallacy of Appeal to Ignorance

“There is no proof that the CIA funded Osama Bin Laden. So, we can assume that such funding never occurred.”

### 6. Fallacy of Composition

“According to press reports, all the men in the recent terrorist attack were from Arab countries. So all Arabs must be terrorists, and Arab culture must favor terrorism.”

7. Fallacy of Division

“Afghanistan is ruled by an anti-democratic government. So, therefore, the people of Afghanistan must be anti-democratic.”

8. Fallacy of the Slippery Slope

“Any U.S. military action in Afghanistan is bound to lead to a Vietnam style ground war, detrimental to U.S. interests.”

How could you reconstruct the above to be valid?