

Fallacies

1. Inconsistency:

"Intervention in the affairs of other countries is immoral, and the U.S. should never engage in this practice. However, the U.S. should act to overthrow rogue figures like Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein."

2. Straw Man:

"People who supported George W. Bush for president were arguing, in essence, that the world's biggest moron is best qualified to be president."

3. Either-Or (False Dilemma):

"Demonstrators against globalization of the world economy are adopting an absurd position. If you reject the agenda of globalization, then you must favor a turn to national isolation and xenophobia."

4. Begging the Question (or Tautology):

Roger has a Kilimanjaro mountain bicycle;
∴ Roger has a bicycle.

A slightly more racist version of this fallacy: "The problem with Middle East politics is that it is all based on a fundamental lack of respect for the concept of truth. People in that region simply lack compunctions about the need to be truthful in political debate, newspaper editorials, and government pronouncements. Why is this so? Because Middle Eastern countries have a culture that does not value truth, and in this respect is so different from the United States and other Western countries. The fact that political debate is so completely based on dishonesty in the Middle East proves that the culture must be dishonest."

5. Questionable Premise (or False Premise):

"Elvis really is alive and well. So, the *National Enquirer* must be right in some cases."

6. Suppressed Evidence (or the Fallacy of Whitewash):

An example of this fallacy: Discussing the history of the United States during the nineteenth century, arguing that the U. S. has had an honorable history, but leaving out any mention of Indian massacres.

7. Tokenism:

"As a senator I have an excellent record on environmental issues. During the recent campaign, I have mentioned the environment in almost every speech I have given."