

CS 100 - Homework 7

Deadline:

Due by 11:59 pm on Friday, October 12

How to submit:

- Go to the course Moodle site.
 - (either log into myHumboldt and click the Moodle button in the upper right corner,
 - or get to it via learn.humboldt.edu,
 - ...and then click the "my moodle" button in the upper right under the big yellow moodle logo to get your list Moodle course sites,
 - or follow the link from the public course web site, users.humboldt.edu/smtuttle/f12cs100)
- Once you are at the course Moodle site, find the section titled "Submit your HOMEWORK FILES here",
 - and click on the link "Click HERE to submit Homework 7".
- You should see, in the middle of the page, a place where you can upload your homework file.
 - Note that I believe I set this up to permit multiple submissions. I couldn't set it to "unlimited", because the largest number available was 20, but that seems like it should be ample.
 - Also note that I will grade the latest file submitted before the deadline unless you e-mail and tell me otherwise.

Purpose:

To practice identifying logical fallacies of relevance in arguments.

Important notes:

- Type:
 - your name, then
 - the problem number and your answer for each of the following questions,
 - into a file named `cs100hw7` (optionally followed by your name, including only letters and underscores -- NO blanks or other unusual characters)
 - Its format may be `.txt`, `.odt`, `.pdf`, `.doc`, `.docx`, or `.jpg`. (Please ask me before submitting files of other formats -- for example, please do not submit `.pages` documents, because our grader cannot read them.)

The Problems:

Consider Exercise 5.2 in the course textbook, on pp. 134-136. Also consider the fallacies of relevance we have discussed in class:

- personal attack (*ad hominem*)
- attacking the motive
- look who's talking (*tu quoque*)
- two wrongs make a right
- scare tactics
- appeal to pity
- bandwagon argument
- straw man
- red herring
- equivocation
- begging the question

All of the arguments below contain at least one fallacy of relevance. For each argument specified below, put the problem number, and then give the name of least one fallacy of relevance that it contains.

1. Exercise 5.2, Argument 2 ("Jason: Did you hear...")
2. Exercise 5.2, Argument 3 ("Bill Baxter deserves...")
3. Exercise 5.2, Argument 5 ("My driving instructor...")
4. Exercise 5.2, Argument 6 ("Jeff and Maribeth...")
5. Exercise 5.2, Argument 8 ("Jesse Jackson has...")
6. Exercise 5.2, Argument 9 ("*Child to playmate*: Admit...")
7. Exercise 5.2, Argument 11 ("Opponents of capital...")
8. Exercise 5.2, Argument 14 ("Surveys show that...")
9. Exercise 5.2, Argument 15 ("I almost lost...")
10. Exercise 5.2, Argument 17 ("You often hear...")
11. Exercise 5.2, Argument 18 ("I wish I could...")
12. Exercise 5.2, Argument 20 ("Dear Mr. Ferguson, ...")
13. Exercise 5.2, Argument 21 ("Convicted murderer...")
14. Exercise 5.2, Argument 23 ("Baseball owners...")
15. Exercise 5.2, Argument 24 ("I see nothing unethical...")
16. Exercise 5.2, Argument 29 ("Sigrid is...")

17. Exercise 5.2, Argument 30 ("Wellington's is a...")
18. Exercise 5.2, Argument 33 ("I can't believe that...")
19. Exercise 5.2, Argument 35 ("Mr. Martin claims...")
20. Gambling is wrong, because it's wrong to play at games of chance for stakes.
21. Everybody is reading Joey Potboiler's new novel, *Fighting Vixens of Cell Block D*. It must be good.
22. Professor Stanton M. Buttersworth conducted extensive and long-term studies of the television-watching habits of school children. On the basis of these studies, Professor Buttersworth has concluded that children who watch more than two hours of television a day do not perform as well in school as those who watch less than two hours a day. But Professor Buttersworth must be wrong about that. Television is a source of news, entertainment, and information--and all for an extremely modest cost. Life would be much less interesting without television.
23. In a recent judicial decision, District Court Judge Lemuel Featherstone argued that bazookas and flamethrowers are not protected by the Second Amendment. Apparently, Judge Featherstone believes that the U.S. Constitution is obsolete and should be repealed by judicial fiat. But the rights protected in the Constitution lie at the very core of America's values and traditions. All true Americans must hope that Judge Featherstone's ruling is swiftly overturned.
24. David Trimble has argued that it's more expensive to live in New York than it is to live in Chicago. But New York is a great place to live. It has great restaurants, museums, and nightspots. I just don't buy David's argument at all.
25. *Bruno*: I'm sure that you will want to buy my company's fire-detection system for your business.
Sam: I don't think so. One of your competitors offers the same level of protection for less money.
Bruno: Well, as they say, it's a free country. But before you make a final decision, keep this in mind: Every business that decided not to buy our system was very quickly plagued with fires and other acts of vandalism.