

## More Fun with Fallacies—Answers

Please identify the fallacies committed below on a SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, and please be sure to TYPE and NUMBER your responses.

1. **FAULTY ANALOGY OR BEGGING THE QUESTION:** A doctor can consult books to make a diagnosis, so a medical student should be able to consult books when being tested.
2. **FAULTY CAUSE:** A professor at Rutgers University: “The arrest rate for women is rising three times as fast as that of men. Women, inflamed by the doctrines of feminism, are pursuing criminal careers with the same zeal as business and the professions.”
3. **EITHER/OR:** Are we going to vote a pay increase for our teachers, or are we going to allow our schools to deteriorate into substandard custodial institutions?
4. **FAULTY CAUSE:** Children who watch *Frasier* rather than *Friends* receive higher grades in school. So it must be true that *Frasier* is more educational than *Friends*.
5. **FAULTY CAUSE:** From Mark Clifton, “The Dread Tomato Affliction” (proving that eating tomatoes is dangerous and even deadly): “Ninety-two point four percent of juvenile delinquents have eaten tomatoes. Fifty-seven point one percent of the adult criminals in penitentiaries throughout the United States have eaten tomatoes. Eighty-four percent of all people killed in automobile accidents during the year have eaten tomatoes.”
6. **AD HOMINEM:** George Meany, former president of the AFL-CIO, in 1968: “To these people who constantly say you have got to listen to these younger people, they have got something to say, I just don’t buy that at all. They smoke more pot than we do and if the younger generation are the hundred thousand kids that lay around a field up in Woodstock, New York, I am not going to trust the destiny of the country to that group.”
7. **FAULTY CAUSE:** Governor Jones was elected two years ago. Since that time constant examples of corruption and subversion have been unearthed. It is time to get rid of the man responsible for this kind of corrupt government.
8. **NON SEQUITUR:** He’s a columnist for the campus newspaper, so he must be a pretty good writer.
9. **HASTY GENERALIZATION:** I know three redheads who have terrible tempers, and since Annabel has red hair, I’ll bet she has a terrible temper, too.
10. **FAULTY ANALOGY:** James A. Harris, former president of the National Education Association: “Twenty-three percent of schoolchildren are failing to graduate, and another large segment graduate as functional illiterates. If 23 percent of anything else failed—23 percent of automobiles didn’t run, 23 percent of the buildings fell down, 23 percent of stuff had spoiled—we’d look at the producer.
11. **NON SEQUITUR:** Physical education should be required because physical activity is healthful.

12. **SLIPPERY SLOPE**: Robert Brustein, artistic director of the American Repertory Theatre, commenting on a threat by Congress in 1989 to withhold funding from an offensive art show: "Once we allow lawmakers to become art critics, we take the first step into the world of the Ayatollah Khomeini, whose murderous review of *The Satanic Verses* still chills the heart of everyone committed to free expression." (The Ayatollah Khomeini called for the death of the author, Salman Rushdie, because he had allegedly committed blasphemy against Islam in his novel.)
13. **NON SEQUITUR**: Since good nutrition is essential to the health of its citizens, the government should punish people who eat junk food.
14. **HASTY GENERALIZATION**: Supreme Court Justice Byron White was an All-American football player while at college, so how can you say that athletes are dumb?
15. **NON SEQUITUR**: That candidate was poor as a child, so he will certainly be sympathetic to the poor if he's elected.
16. **HASTY GENERALIZATION**: The meteorologist predicted the wrong amount of rain for May. Obviously the meteorologist is unreliable.
17. **FALSE ANALOGY**: The people of Rome lost their vitality and desire for freedom when their emperors decided that the way to keep them happy was to provide them with bread and circuses. What can we expect of our own country now that the government gives people free food and there is a constant round of entertainment provided by television?
18. **BEGGING THE QUESTION**: The presiding judge of a revolutionary tribunal, on being asked why people were being executed without trial: "Why should we put them on trial when we know that they're guilty?"
19. **EITHER/OR**: We should encourage a return to arranged marriages in this country since marriages based on romantic love haven't been very successful.
20. **BEGGING THE QUESTION**: We tend to exaggerate the need for standard English. You don't need much standard English for most jobs in this country.
21. **FAULTY ANALOGY**: When the federal government sent troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce integration of the public school system, the governor of Arkansas attacked the action, saying that it was as brutal an act of intervention as Russia's sending troops into Hungary to squelch the Hungarians' rebellion. In both cases, the governor said, the rights of a freedom-loving, independent people were being violated.
22. **FAULTY CAUSE**: You know Jane Fonda's exercise videos must be worth the money. Look at the great shape she's in.
23. **FAULTY CAUSE**: You see, the priests were right. After we threw those virgins into the volcano, it quit erupting.