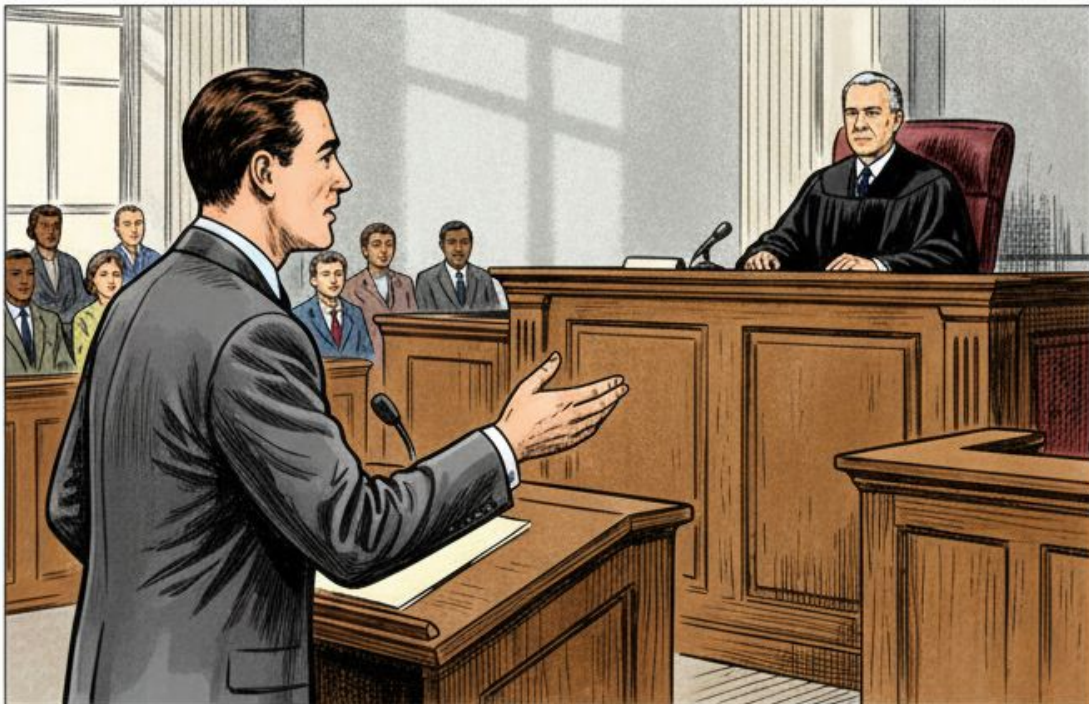


The 10 Most Dangerous Logical Fallacies

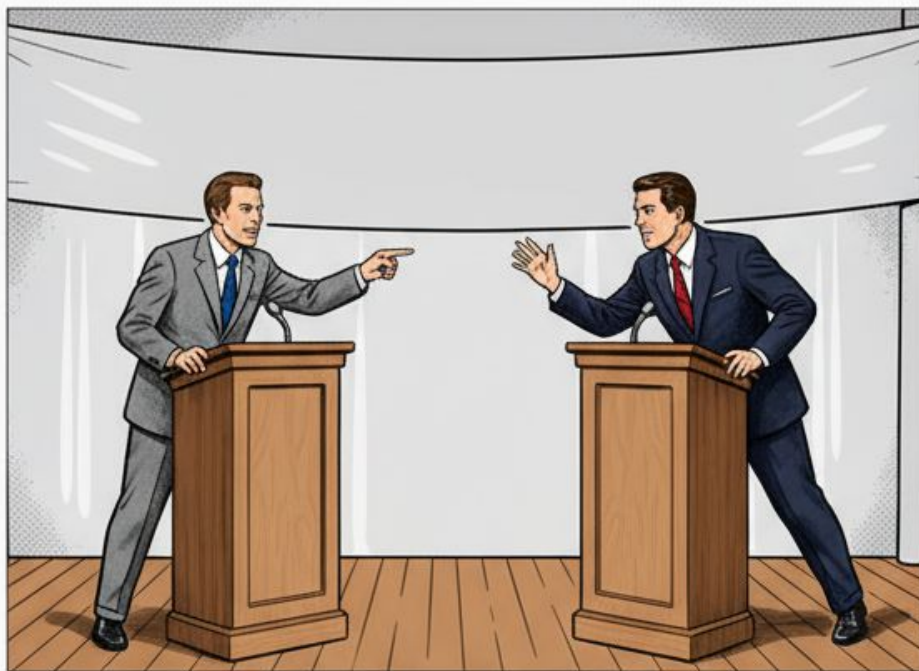
Logical Fallacies are errors in reasoning that destroy the quality of an argument.



(EVERYONE NEEDS TO READ THIS)

Ad Hominem

Attack the person



It's one of the oldest tricks in the book: Attempt to discredit the messenger so you don't have to face the message. An all-too-common "strategy" in political discourse.

The Straw Man

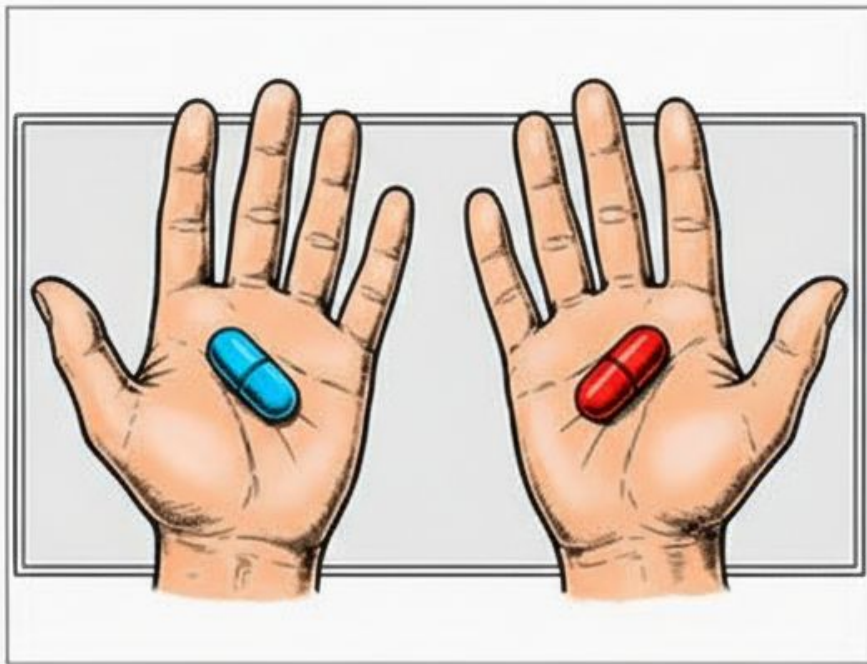
Distort to destroy



The person distorts your argument into a weaker version so they can easily tear it down. Instead of engaging with your actual point, they invent a flimsy one and proudly defeat it. A classic move for anyone more interested in winning than understanding.

False Dilemma

You only have two choices



They present two extreme options as if they're the only possibilities. Oversimplification to avoid confronting the fact that reality is almost always in some shade of grey. This thrives in political and social media echo chambers.

Appeal to Authority

Trust me, they said so



The person uses an expert's opinion as proof, without any supporting evidence. Experts can inform your thinking, but they generally shouldn't replace it. People often hide behind credentials when logic runs out.

Bandwagon Fallacy

Everyone's doing it



Assuming something is true simply because everyone believes it. Popularity isn't evidence. The crowd has been confidently wrong many times before. The herd may be loudest right before walking off the cliff.

Sunk Cost Fallacy

Can't quit now



The person argues to continue on the path simply because of what has already been invested to date. In truth, past effort has no bearing on whether continuing makes sense. Smart people cut losses when they no longer make sense. Fools double down to avoid accepting the loss.

Red Herring

Hey, look over there!



Hunting dog trainers would often use a kippered herring as a distracting scent to test whether the dogs were able to stay on track. The red herring is a distraction masquerading as relevant. Someone shifts the topic to something tangential to avoid addressing the issue at hand. A masterclass in misdirection.

Tu Quoque

"And you too."



Instead of addressing a criticism, the person points out your flaws to avoid accountability. Alleged hypocrisy doesn't invalidate truth.

Hasty Generalization

Small sample, big claim



Someone draws a sweeping conclusion from very limited evidence. Anecdotes are not data. One case does not make a real pattern. Humans love shortcuts, but sound logic requires a larger sample size.

The Fallacy Fallacy

Bad argument \neq bad idea



The person assumes a claim is false simply because it was argued poorly. Bad reasoning doesn't automatically make an idea wrong, just unproven. Don't confuse a poor advocate with a poor idea.

The next time you find yourself pulled into an argument, remember these logical fallacies.

Use them to distinguish between those engaging in good faith and those who just want to wrestle you in the mud.

I recommend you bookmark this field guide and come back to it as needed. It will leave you well-equipped for life in the modern era.

Source : <https://x.com/SahilBloom/status/1998753332677193729>