

SOME LOGICAL FALLACIES:

- A. BROAD GENERALIZATIONS—Working from a limited sample; Repressing contrary evidence.
- B. POST HOC ERGO PROPTER HOC—After this, then, because of this

Economy enters a recession; rates of teen pregnancy rise. Assume one is caused by the other.

Issue of correlation and causation

- C. NATURALISTIC FALLACY—If something is “natural” (i.e. it occurs in nature) it is assumed to be either good or inevitable.
- D. STRAW PERSON—Create a caricature of your opponents’ argument to dismantle it.
- E. AD HOMINEM—You read an article in a management journal about the importance of democratic and participatory styles of management. However, the author is your boss who has an autocratic style in your workplace. You conclude that the argument is complete hypocrisy and worthless.
- F. INEVITABLE SLIPPERY SLOPE—If this changes (legalization of physician-assisted suicide), then a whole host of other negative changes (e.g., killing people with disabilities, etc.) will inevitably (and sometimes quickly) occur.

(“Modified slippery slope” – possible consequences—may be acceptable e.g., if workers lose the right to protection against mandatory overtime, other limitations on workers’ rights may be on the horizon.)

- G. PREDICTION (related to “Inevitable Slippery Slope”)—If change X occurs, then Y is inevitable. If the U.S. implements a new tax policy and jobs program, the country will eliminate poverty in thirty years. (A writer can speculate, however, about the possible impacts of changes in tax policy and the implementation of new jobs program.)

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