

LOGICAL FALLACY TABLE

FALLACY	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE (6TH-GRADE LEVEL)	PENALTY FLAG	EXAMPLE IN THE BIBLE
Ad Hominem	Attacking the person making the argument rather than the argument itself.	"You can't trust what Sarah says about math because she's terrible at sports."	<i>"Foul! Personal attack! Argue the point, not the player!"</i>	Pharisees attacking Jesus personally, calling him a blasphemer instead of addressing his message (John 10:33).
Straw Man	Misrepresenting or exaggerating someone's argument to make it easier to attack.	"You want to ban all homework forever!" (Used when the person suggested less homework, not banning it.)	<i>"Misrepresentation! That's not what the person said!"</i>	Pharisees accuse Jesus of wanting to destroy the Temple when he speaks symbolically (Mark 14:58).
Appeal to Ignorance	Claiming something is true because it has not been proven false (or vice versa).	"No one has proven aliens don't exist, so they must be real."	<i>"No proof? No points! The burden of proof is on you!"</i>	"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (Psalm 14:1) — lack of proof doesn't deny God's existence.
False Dilemma (Either/Or)	Presenting only two options when more exist, often leading to an oversimplified conclusion.	"You either love pizza or you hate all food."	<i>"False choice! There are more options in play!"</i>	Pharisees presenting a false choice: "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" (Matthew 22:17).
Slippery Slope	Arguing that a small first step will inevitably lead to a chain of related events, often negative.	"If we let kids play video games at school, soon they won't study at all and will fail every class."	<i>"Slippery slope! One thing doesn't always lead to disaster!"</i>	Pharisees feared that if Jesus performed more miracles, the Romans would take over (John 11:48).
Circular Reasoning	Using the conclusion as a premise in the argument; restating the claim instead of proving it.	"I'm the best student because no one else is better than I am."	<i>"Round and round we go! You're repeating yourself!"</i>	"God exists because the Bible says so, and the Bible is true because it is the Word of God."
Hasty Generalization	Making a broad claim based on limited or insufficient evidence.	"My two friends hate broccoli, so everyone in school must hate it."	<i>"Too quick! Not enough evidence for that call!"</i>	"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46) — judging based on where Jesus was from.

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Red Herring	Distracting from the main issue by introducing an irrelevant topic.	"Why are we talking about my homework? What about that time you forgot to pick me up from soccer practice?"	<i>"Off-topic! Stay focused on the issue!"</i>	Pharisees accuse Jesus of healing on the Sabbath rather than addressing the healing itself (Luke 6:7).
Bandwagon Appeal (Ad Populum)	Arguing that something is true or right because many people believe it.	"Everyone in my class has a phone, so I should get one too!"	<i>"Bandwagon foul! Just because it's popular doesn't make it right!"</i>	Worshiping the golden calf because "everyone was doing it" (Exodus 32:1-4).
Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc	Assuming that because one event followed another, the first caused the second.	"I wore my lucky socks, and then I aced the test. The socks must have helped me do well!"	<i>"Correlation isn't causation! No magic socks here!"</i>	The disciples think a man's blindness was caused by either his or his parents' sin (John 9:2).
Appeal to Authority	Arguing that something is true because an authority figure believes it, even if that person is not an expert.	"My favorite actor says this new diet works, so it must be the best way to lose weight."	<i>"Wrong authority! Expertise required for this call!"</i>	Pharisees cite their authority to refute Jesus without addressing his message (Matthew 21:23).
Begging the Question	Assuming the truth of the conclusion without providing evidence for it.	"He's a great player because he's the best on the team."	<i>"Circular reasoning! Where's the evidence?"</i>	Pharisees assumed their interpretation of the law was correct without evidence (Luke 6:7).
False Cause	Mistaking correlation for causation, assuming that if two things happen together, one causes the other.	"Every time I see a dog, it starts raining. Dogs must make it rain."	<i>"False cause! Just because it happens together doesn't mean one caused the other!"</i>	Disciples think the storm was punishment for their disobedience (Mark 4:37-40).
Appeal to Emotion	Using emotional appeals instead of logical reasoning to persuade.	"If you don't help me with my homework, I'll feel really sad, and you'll hurt my feelings."	<i>"Emotional foul! Facts, not feelings!"</i>	Satan appeals to Eve's desire to be like God to persuade her to eat the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:4-5).
Tu Quoque (You Too)	Deflecting criticism by accusing the other person of the same issue.	"How can you tell me to clean my room when your room is always messy?"	<i>"Tu Quoque! Just because they did it too doesn't make it right!"</i>	Pharisees accuse Jesus of violating the Sabbath while they break their own laws (Matthew 12:10-12).
Equivocation	Using ambiguous language to mislead or misrepresent the truth.	"The sign says, 'Fine for parking,' so I thought it was okay to park here."	<i>"Wordplay foul! Don't twist the meaning!"</i>	Satan uses equivocation to twist God's words when tempting Eve (Genesis 3:1-4).