

# Logical Fallacies

## When Words Mislead

Logic is not everything. But it is something—something which can be taught, something which can be learned, something which can help us in some degree to think more sensibly about the dangerous world in which we live.

- David Hackett Fischer, *Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought*

Logical Fallacies are common errors in reasoning that undermine the logic of an argument. They are used to exploit prejudices, avoid substantive conversations, hide weaknesses, and deliberately mislead. This project is designed to help you to gain a better understanding of logical fallacies and to see how common they really are. In the end, this should help you be a better critical thinker who is able to present more effective arguments and deconstruct the arguments of others.

Either individually or with a partner, create a presentation that “teaches” us about your assigned logical fallacy. The components of the presentation are as follows:

- Clear definition of the fallacy
- A visual (Google slide deck or poster) that illustrates the fallacy and its essential elements
- An actual example and analysis of the fallacy (from an ad, letter to the editor, etc.). Include a works cited entry for the example.
- An original, student-created example of the fallacy and analysis (develop a political, product and service-oriented ad; stage a min-debate, etc.)

“There's a mighty big difference between good, sound reasons and reasons that sound good.”

- Burton Hillis