

----- Fallacious Generalizations -----

1. "Mary has always gone to Mexico in the winter and it is always warm, so Mexico is always warm during the winter."
2. "Angel always goes to the beach on the fourth of July and it is always foggy, on the fourth of the July it is always cold."
3. I spend a lot of money buying cigarettes, and I smoke about 3 packs a day. My weekly expense is a lot due to cigarettes.
4. My dad makes over \$250,000 a year. I guess that means he'll be a millionaire by the time he retires.
5. My dad used to always tell me to drink my milk and my bones will be strong. I haven't broken a bone, so my bones must be strong, and it must have been because I drank milk.
6. Disneyland is the happiest place of earth according to their slogan, so everyone must think it is the happiest place on earth.
7. In Santa Clara county, 60% voted for the Democratic candidate; we can assume that the rest of California will vote the same and he will win.
8. Linda is so bad at parallel parking, so all women must be bad at parallel parking
9. All Democrats are evil.
10. Every graduate of the University of Wyoming swears at sports games.
11. Every time Tony goes to a Sharks game they win. The Sharks must never lose.
12. If a couple of teenagers are arrested for beating homeless, we can assume that all teenagers beat homeless people.
13. When I was in Vermont, the people I talked to were really friendly. Everyone must be really friendly in Vermont.
14. The results of the standardized tests were low in San Jose, therefore the results must be low in the whole state of California.
15. I have been on many planes, and there is turbulence every time. So that means next time I go on a planes there will be turbulence.
16. She bought a cool jacket in New York, therefore New York must only have cool jackets.
17. I met several people from Iceland, they are very nice, so Icelandic people must be very nice.
18. I asked several French people about what is the best dish of French cuisine, they told me it is snails with garlic sauce, so I guess snails with garlic sauce is the best tasting French dish.

19. The last time I went to New York the weather was freezing, so the next time I visit it will be freezing, too.
20. The Golden State Warriors haven't made the playoffs the past 12 years, that means they're not going to make the playoffs this season also.
21. Every time I've played video games with Shaun, he's always beaten me. He must be a professional gamer.
22. I was told that you speak a little Spanish. You must be Hispanic or Latin American.
23. This restaurant serves delicious sandwiches. Everything on their menu must be delicious.
24. One of my friends who had this professor last semester said he was a really good teacher. He must be a really good teacher, so I'm going to enroll in his class for this semester.
25. Whenever I bet on the biggest horse I win. So today I will bet on the biggest horse and I will surely win.
26. Everyone in the world knows how to speak English so why should I learn any other language?
27. I heard that Mississippi has the highest teen pregnancy rate. They must only teach abstinence in that state.
28. Cindy has most of the seniors' votes for prom queen, so she must have the most votes out of the whole school.

----- Ad Hominem Attacks -----

1. "Are you going to listen to her, when she lied to you?"
2. "What's the point of asking soccer players, if they want to watch a game, if they are always going to say yes."
3. "How can you follow the teachers' instructions, if they are not even sure if they are doing it right."
4. Reika tells me that drugs are bad, and yet she did Ecstasy with me.
5. Of course Mimi will mock your new hair cut, that's who Mimi is - a person who speak her opinion.
6. How can my mom tell me not to smoke when she smokes herself?
7. My boyfriend told me that I need to lose weight because I'm too fat when he is way over weight.
8. Don't vote for him! He's a Republican! He's going to put us into another war!
9. You can't possibly support that candidate, all of the big businesses support him!

10. Arnold isn't trying to help our schools; he obviously doesn't care about children.
11. Don't even try to persuade a Democrat to vote for more taxes. Democrats are always against taxes.
12. President Bush used to own a baseball team, so baseball is a fun sport to watch.
13. Bill Clinton supported Proposition 87, and Arnold Schwarzenegger opposed it, so it was a terrible initiative.
14. What's the point of asking the Colin Ferrel and Jamie Foxx if Miami Vice is a good movie? They both star in the film.
15. Of course he thinks Tom Brady's a better quarterback than Peyton Manning. He's a Patriots fan.
16. I'm not going to listen to her marriage advice when she is on her fourth divorce!
17. Don't vote for that new initiative--- it was written by a Republican!
18. Your mom tells you to get good grades, but why should you when she flunked out of school.
19. Your brother tells you to clean your room, but why should you when his room is dirtier than yours?
20. Do not take his advices on how to invest, he went to two bankruptcies twice in his whole life.
21. You believe in the company's policy that they never discriminate against anybody based on his race? The CEO of this company is a racist.
22. He believes gay marriage should be legal, so he must be a homosexual.
23. He said you should wait to have sex until you get married, but are you actually going to believe him? He's not a virgin himself!
24. Why did you decide to go to Las Vegas with your best friend, Martin, when he doesn't like to gamble?
25. Your mom may be a nurse, but she isn't the best person to go to for health advice since she is a smoker.
26. How can you ask me to donate to this organization if you yourself won't donate?
27. Don't vote for Proposition 85 because it was written by the same people who want to get rid of all abortion rights.
28. How can you believe anything that a woman says?
29. Sure he robbed the corner store: he's black.

----- Fallacious Substitutions -----

1. Who gets paid more, restaurant servers or professional basketball players? Servers because there are way more people with that profession than basketball players.
2. All Jews are good with money, Frank is a Jew so he is good with money.
3. Harvard and Yale are the best universities because they attract the greatest students.
4. Cheese is delicious. Any food that has cheese in it must be delicious too.
5. She used only high quality film, so her pictures must be high quality.
6. Who gets paid more: teachers or hockey players? Teachers do because there are far more teachers than hockey players.
7. Everyone from the senior class of Loew High School graduated, that means the school must be smart.
8. Final Boss is a really good team. so that means that everyone in it must be a really good player.
9. Our company only uses machine components of the highest quality, so we guarantee that our products are of the highest quality.
10. All of the students in that school are the smartest in the city so their test scores must be the best in the city.
11. I'm the best student in all my classes, so I must be the best student in the whole world.

Answer Key

----- Fallacious Generalizations -----

1. Hasty generalization (MC), as long as the first "always" doesn't mean the same thing as the second "always." Why?
2. Hasty generalization (MC) , as long as the first "always" doesn't mean the same thing as the second "always." Why?
3. This doesn't sound like a hasty generalization (CC), but we'd need more information about the "weekly expense" to decide.
4. Not phrased as a sweeping generalization (CC).
5. Not phrased as a hasty generalization (LN).
6. Sweeping generalization (LN).
7. Sweeping generalization (VK).
8. Hasty generalization (VK).
9. Generalization (PW). Ok, but we need more information to know if it is hasty or sweeping.
10. Generalization (PW). Ok, but we need more information to know if it is hasty or sweeping.
11. Generalization (MM). But which?

12. Generalization (MM). But which?
13. Hasty generalization (AF).
14. Sweeping generalization (AF).
15. A fallacy, or inductive reasoning? (AM)
16. Generalization (AM).
17. Hasty generalization (JZ).
18. Hasty generalization? (JZ).
19. Hasty Generalization (KM).
20. Sweeping Generalization (KM).
21. Fallacious Generalization (MB).
22. Fallacious Generalization (MB).
23. Fallacious Generalization (DU).
24. Probably not a fallacious generalization (DU), since you are simply accepting your friend's opinion, knowing that it might not be right.
25. Fallacious generalization (EB).
26. Not phrased as a fallacious generalization (EB).
27. Sweeping Generalization (SS), which here would be unstated: "all states with high teen pregnancy rates must only teach abstinence."
28. Sweeping generalization, conclusion exceeds what evidence supports (SS).

----- Ad Hominem Attacks -----

1. Ad hominem: personality, traits, or identity (MC). Maybe – we'd need more information to be sure.
2. Ad hominem: affiliation, profession, or situation (MC). Not phrased that way, though – it should end "because they are always going to say yes." What's the difference?
3. Not an ad hominem – it's a good question! (MC).
4. Not an ad hominem: Contradictory Actions (CC). The fallacy is when you reject (or accept) the advice based on the contradictory actions.
5. Not an ad hominem (CC).
6. Ad hominem (LN), as long as we don't take the "How can" question literally.
7. Not phrased as an ad hominem (LN)
8. Not phrased as an ad hominem (VK).
9. Ad hominem (VK).
10. Not an ad hominem, attacking personality (SS), because it attacks him, not his belief or argument. This is probably a sweeping generalization, that anyone not trying to help the schools doesn't care about children.
11. Ad hominem, attacking affiliation (SS). Maybe, but it seems to be phrased as a fallacious generalization.
12. No ad hominem here (PW).
13. No ad hominem here (PW).

14. Ad hominem (MM).
15. Ad hominem or sweeping generalization? (MM)
16. Ad hominem (AF).
17. Ad hominem (AF).
18. Ad hominem (AM).
19. Ad hominem (AM)
20. Ad Hominem (JZ).
21. Ad Hominem (JZ). Though what other evidence could there be that the CEO is a racist, except examples of discrimination?
22. Not an ad hominem, because it's using his belief to conclude something about him, and not the other way around. This would be part of a sweeping generalization, or appeal to prejudice (KM).
23. Ad hominem, as long as he's not married (KM).
24. Not an ad hominem (MB) – this is just a question, not a fallacy at all.
25. Ad Hominem (MB).
26. Ad Hominem Fallacy (DU).
27. Ad Hominem Fallacy (DU).
28. Not phrased as an ad hominem (EB). This would be a fallacious generalization or appeal to prejudice.
29. Not an ad hominem – he's not making an argument (EB). This would be a fallacious generalization or appeal to prejudice.

----- Fallacious Substitutions -----

1. Not a fallacy (LN).
2. Appeal to prejudice or sweeping generalization, but not fallacious substitution (VK).
3. Fallacious substitution (PW).
4. A sweeping generalization, but NOT a fallacious substitution (MM).
5. Fallacy of composition (AF).
6. Not a fallacy (AM).
7. Fallacious substitution? Only if you equate "graduating" with being "smart" (KM).
8. Fallacious Substitution (MB).
9. Not a fallacy of substitution (DU). That would end "So our products must be of the highest quality." What they guarantee is a separate issue.
10. Not phrased as a fallacious substitution (EB)—there's no switch from a plural noun to a collective noun.
11. Not a fallacy of substitution, replacing plural noun with collective noun (SS), because the plural (classes) and the collective (world) wouldn't be considered equivalent, as might "forest" and "trees" or "players" and "team."