

Four Key Questions

What is the issue at hand?

Relevance	→	Is the argument relevant to the issue at hand?
Presumption	→	Is the argument assuming something illegitimate?
Clarity	→	Is the argument clear?

FALLACIES OF RELEVANCE	Arguments that are really distractions from the main point.
<i>Ad Fontem Arguments</i> (<i>Arguments against the source</i>)	Arguments that distract by focusing attention on the source of the argument, rather than on the issue itself.
1. <i>Ad Hominem</i> Abusive	Arguments that attempt to avoid the issue by insulting an opponent with abusive language.
2. <i>Ad Hominem</i> Circumstantial	Arguments that try to discredit an opponent because of his background, affiliations, or self-interest in the matter at hand.
3. <i>Tu Quoque</i>	Arguments that assume that a rival's recommendation should be discounted because the rival does not always follow it himself.
4. Genetic Fallacy	Arguments that state that an idea should be discounted simply because of its source or origin.
Appeals to Emotion	Arguments that attempt to sway the opinions of people by compelling them feel emotions such as pity, anger, fear, joy, peer pressure, intimidation, etc.
5. Appeal to Fear (<i>ad baculum</i>)	Arguments that distract by making the audience afraid of the consequences of disagreeing with the speaker.
6. Appeal to Pity (<i>ad misericordiam</i>)	Arguments that distract by making the audience feel sorry for the speaker or someone on behalf of whom the speaker is arguing.
7. Mob Appeal (<i>ad populum</i>)	Arguments that distract by making the audience want to be part of the crowd or one of the "common people."
8. Snob Appeal	Arguments that distract by making the audience want to feel "special."
9. Appeal to Illegitimate Authority (<i>ad verecundiam</i>)	Arguments that distract by attempting to shame the listener into agreement by citing an illegitimate authority.
10. Chronological Snobbery	Arguments that distract by making the audience want to either be a part of an old tradition or of the latest cool, new thing.
Red Herrings	Arguments that make a more subtle appeal to emotion, but include types of proofs that are irrelevant to the case at hand.
11. Appeal to Ignorance	Arguments that claim that since a proposition cannot be disproven, it must therefore be true or likely.
12. Irrelevant Goals or Functions	Arguments that distract by measuring a plan or policy according to goals it wasn't intended to achieve.
13. Irrelevant Thesis	Arguments that distract by making a case for the wrong point.
14. Straw Man Fallacy	Arguments that attempt to disprove an opponent's position by presenting it in an unfair, inaccurate light.

FALLACIES OF PRESUMPTION	Arguments that make unwarranted assumptions about either the data or the nature of a reasonable argument.
Fallacies of Presupposition	Arguments that contain hidden assumptions that make them unreasonable.
15. Begging the Question (<i>petitio principii</i>)	Arguments that assume the very same thing that one is trying to prove.
16. Bifurcation (False Dilemma)	Arguments that frame the debate such that only two options are possible, when other possibilities may exist.
17. Fallacy of Moderation	Arguments that assume the correct answer is always the middle ground or a compromise between two extremes.
18. Is-Ought Fallacy	Arguments that assume that just because something <i>is</i> a certain way, it <i>ought</i> to be that way.
19. Fallacy of Composition	Arguments based on a hidden assumption that the properties of the whole will be the same as the properties of the parts.
20. Fallacy of Division	Arguments that are based on the hidden assumption that a collective whole determines that all of its parts will be like the whole.
Fallacies of Induction	Arguments that misuse empirical data or don't follow proper methods of inductive reasoning.
21. Sweeping Generalization (Accident)	Arguments that overextend a generalization to include facts or cases that are exceptions to it.
22. Hasty Generalization (Converse Accident)	Arguments that make a generalization on the basis of too few samples.
23. False Analogy	Arguments that fail because they create an analogy between two things that are not similar enough to warrant an analogy.
24. False Cause	Arguments that are based on a weak cause-and-effect connection.
25. Fake Precision	Arguments that use numbers or statistics in a way that is too precise to be justified by the situation.
FALLACIES OF CLARITY	Arguments that fail because they contain words, phrases, or syntax that distort or cloud their meanings.
26. Equivocation	Arguments that fail because a key term is ambiguous.
27. Accent	Arguments that rest on an improper emphasis placed on certain words or phrases.
28. Distinction Without a Difference	Argument that make a linguistic distinction between two things that are actually not different from each other.