

Delusional Logic!

Spot these fallacies in other people's arguments. You could use this sheet to play 'Spot that Logical Fallacy' on *The Skeptics Guide to the Universe* podcast, or play it in meetings at work to make friends and influence people!

Ad hominem (attack the arguer)	Missing Middle (only one of two ridiculous extremes is possible)	Chemical fallacy (special type of weasel words)	Proof by victimisation (victims may have insight but not proof)	False Continuum (similar to the Missing Middle)
Appeal to "authority" (4 out of 5 scientists believe . . .)	'Poisoning the Well' (preface your argument with something derogatory)	Reductio ad absurdum (follow implications to absurd extent)	Confusion of correlation and causation (like post hoc but not time dependent)	Appeal to quantum physics (baffle you with science)
Appeal to ancient wisdom	Argument from adverse consequences (if <i>that</i> , then <i>this</i>)	Law of large numbers (one in a billion odds sounds unlikely but . . .)	Proof by verbosity (so many red herrings that you cannot refute all of them)	Appeal to dead puppies (Awwww!)
Appeal to ignorance (or lack of evidence or ignorance of evidence)	Statistics of small numbers (sample sizes need to be large enough)	Proof by 'mummy instinct' (Mums' Anecdotes)	Post hoc, ergo propter hoc (order of events is not evidence of cause and effect)	Special pleading (incomprehensible but claimed to be true e.g. god's will)
'Better journal' fallacy	Appeal to lack of authority (Someone needs to stand up to these experts)	The Loaded Question (Do you doubt the truth of the bible?)	Argument from anomaly. (e.g. ghost hunters find unexplained anomalies)	Proof by anecdote. (It worked for me.)
Weasel words (e.g. 'Intelligent Design')	Argument from final consequences (whoever benefits probably caused it)	Half-truths / suppressed evidence (Observational Selection in a way)	Bandwagon fallacy (everyone / no-one else is doing it so you should / shouldn't too)	'Dawkins is strident' fallacy (special type of ad hominem)
Red herrings	'Mystical energy' fallacy	Meaningless question (e.g. irresistible forces on the immovable)	Slippery slope (exaggeration of the consequences to extent of disaster)	All natural (must be good!)
Non sequitur (irrelevant premises and unlinked conclusion)	Begging the question (the proposition to be proven is assumed implicitly or explicitly in the premise)	The 'Straw Man' (Parody the argument to make it easier to attack)	Observational selection (includes, mention only the results showing desired outcome)	Gamblers fallacy (I've lost so far so must win more now on, or its inverse)

With practice you will spot these (and many others) everywhere!