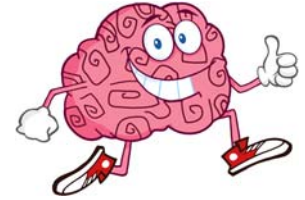


Logical Fallacies

Causal Fallacy



A logical fallacy is an illogical or misleading argument. One type of logical fallacy, called a causal fallacy, is a logical breakdown when identifying a cause. For example:

Assertion: This plant isn't thriving in this blue pot. It was thriving in the red pot, before I transplanted it. It must not be thriving now because it is in the wrong color pot.

Causal Fallacy: It must not be thriving now because it is in the wrong color pot.

This is a causal fallacy because it identifies a coincidental and unrelated variable as the underlying cause of the plant not thriving.

DIRECTIONS: Underline the causal fallacy in each situation.

1. Tom's team has won every home game and lost every away game. Tom tells his teammates that their home field is lucky for them and they are losing their away games because the away fields bring them no luck.
2. The local animal shelter has dozens of cats available for adoption but only a few dogs. Anna says that there are more cats than dogs at the animal shelter because so many people want dogs than cats, less cats get adopted.