



Logical Fallacies

Equivocation

A logical fallacy is an illogical or misleading argument. One type of logical fallacy, called equivocation, means using a word, phrase, or sentence in a deliberately ambiguous way to confuse, deceive, or mislead. Essentially, this fallacy depends on the fact that a word can have multiple meanings and that the audience may not notice that the way a word is being used has shifted during the course of the argument.

DIRECTIONS: Explain each example of equivocation.

1. Whales are mammals. Whales live under water. It is common and not at all unusual for mammals to live under water.

2. A career politician says that he has a history of voting for middle class tax breaks. Once, twenty years ago, he voted for a middle class tax break, but he hasn't voted for one since.

