

Logical Fallacies Field Guide

Module 3.5 - Spot Them. Respond to Them. Don't Use Them.

Fallacy	What It Is	Example	Response
Ad Hominem	Attack the person, ignore the argument	"You're just a bleeding-heart vegan."	"Let's set aside who we are - I'm asking about the system, not about either of us."
False Dichotomy	It's either X or Y - nothing else	"Either you support farmers or animals. Not both."	"There's a lot of ground between those extremes. Can we talk about the middle?"
Slippery Slope	If A happens, Z will inevitably follow	"Restrict factory farming? Next they'll ban all meat."	"That's a long way from what I'm asking. Let's talk about this one step."
Appeal to Authority	An expert agrees, so it must be true	"A famous nutritionist says meat is essential."	"Can we look at the evidence behind their position, not just the position?"
Strawman	Misrepresent, then attack the misrepresentation	"Oh, so you want to shut down every farm?"	"That's not what I said. Here's what I'm actually saying: [restate clearly]."
Hasty Generalization	One example proves the rule	"I visited one clean farm - they're all fine."	"That's one example. One example doesn't tell us about the whole system."

Common Advocate Fallacies (Self-Audit)

Fallacy	How Advocates Use It Accidentally
Hasty generalization	Using one horrible example to represent an entire industry
False dichotomy	"You're either part of the solution or part of the problem"
Appeal to emotion	Powerful feelings don't replace facts
Ad hominem	Dismissing someone's position because of their lifestyle

The rule: If you catch yourself using a fallacy, correct it before someone else does. Self-correction builds credibility.