

## Some Fallacy Exercises:

1. William Buckley has argued in favor of legalizing drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin. But Buckley is just another of those upper-crust intellectuals who is out of touch with America. Thus, we should reject his claim that drugs should be legal.
2. Senator Bentson has argued that funds for the superconducting supercollider should not be cut. However, the supercollider is to be built in Bentson's home state of Texas. Obviously, we can ignore his arguments on this matter.
3. I am confident that you will find Mr. Smith well qualified for the position of new sales manager. For if Smith is not appointed, it may become necessary to make severe personnel cuts in the sales department.
4. Mr. Quinn has argued that logic is not the most important thing in life. Apparently, he advocates irrationality. It's taken humans many years to arrive this level of intelligence and Quinn wants us to throw it all away in favor of irrationalism. What nonsense!
5. TV pundits are always attacking big business for making "obscene profits", but the media companies they work for have higher profits than almost any other industry.
6. Interviewer: Senator, would you explain why you voted for the B-1 bomber, given that the plane has not met performance goals thus far.  
  
Senator: I'd be glad to. America needs a strong defense. We would all like to live in peace but it's naive to think this is possible without a strong national defense. It's a dangerous world out there and I would be derelict in my duty to the people of the United States if I allowed us to lie down to the evil forces in the world.
7. My logic teacher says it's a fallacy to appeal to authority but she must be wrong about this. For I noticed that she cited Aristotle today in answering an objection by a student in class.
8. Congress should not consult the joint chiefs of staff about military funding matters. They are military men, so obviously they will want as much money as they can get for the military.

9. Reporter: Senator Brown, why do you oppose ending the monopoly of the Postal Service on delivery of first-class mail?

Senator Brown: Because it undermines the basic premise of the U.S. Postal System. George Washington described this system as the unbroken chain that holds the nation together. The central government of every modern country of the world has a monopoly on letter mail.

10. Student to teacher: I don't deserve a C for this course, I deserve at least a B. I've been getting Bs from all my other teachers, so you ought to give me a B.

11. A: C'mon, spend the night with me. B: Why should I? A: Why shouldn't you?

12. Children should not be spanked. Dr. Spock says so in his book on child-rearing.

13. Secretary of State James Baker was asked specifically about a speech Monday by the Senate Majority leader, George Mitchell, who accused the Bush administration of being so ambivalent about changes in the East bloc that it seemed to be almost nostalgic about the cold war. The Secretary brushed those aside as partisan politics: "When the President of the United States is rocking along with a 70% approval rating on his handling of foreign policy, if I were the leader of the opposition, I might have something similar to say."

14. Kim: "El Taquito is the best Mexican restaurant in town. They make their own tortillas, they only use the freshest ingredients, and everything I've had there has been delicious." Art: "But you're Japanese, so you can't know much about Mexican food."

15. Not only must we have city and state involvement in developing day care policies, but the U.S. Federal government must also become involved. The only industrialized nation that lacks a national policy on day care is the United States.

16. Edward Maher advocates that the U.S. government "uphold the prestige and dignity of the U.S." at the expense of the lives of the

captives in the American Embassy in Teheren. He does not, I take it, have a son or daughter in that embassy.

17. ". . . the concourse in Heathrow airport was temporarily immobilized by a hundred or more Muslim pilgrims, with 'Saracen Tours' on the luggage, who turned to face Mecca and prostrated themselves in prayer. Two cleaners leaning on their brooms . . . viewed this spectacle with disgust. "Bloody Pakis", said one cleaner. "If they must say their bloody prayers, why don't they go and do it in the bloody chapel?" "No use to them, is it?", said his companion, who seemed a shade less bigoted. Need a mosque, don't they? "Oh yerse!", said the first man sarcastically. "That's all we need in "Eathrow, a bloody mosque". "I'm not sayin' we ought to 'ave one," said the second man patiently. "I'm just sayin' that a Christian chapel wouldn't be no use to 'em, Them being infidels". "I suppose you think we ought to 'ave a synagogue an' a 'Indoo temple too, and a totem pole for Red Indians to dance around?"

18. Though Kornbluth concedes that Milken did commit certain crimes, he basically swallows the argument that Milken was the victim of excessively ambitious prosecutors and journalists. Apparently, Kornbluth thinks that the world would be a whole lot safer if it was filled with unambitious prosecutors and diddling, passive reporters, like him.

19. Many environmentalists harp about the need to eliminate pesticides from our fruits and vegetables. But many of these foods are essential to our health. Carrots are an excellent source of vitamin A, broccoli is rich in iron and oranges and grapefruit have lots of vitamin C.

20. No one has yet proved that global warming is occurring, so I conclude

that it really isn't occurring.

21. Society has an obligation to support the needy, because people who cannot provide for themselves have a right to the resources of the community.

22. Mary says she loves me. I guess it must be so because I don't think

she would lie to someone she loves.

23. No one can criticize Freudian theory unless he has been psychoanalyzed, for opposition to the theory is normally caused by unconscious resistance, arising from the Oedipal complex, which distorts one's thinking.

24. Ed Meese: . . . Ronald Reagan has prided himself on appointing the best possible judges to the state of California when he was governor and to the federal bench as President. The quality of the judges in both cases proves that he succeeded in that objective.

25. Why haven't we learned anything from our free press about the pertinence of Central Asia's huge reserves of oil and natural gas to the war in Afghanistan or about the links between the Bush and the bin Laden families?

26. An administration official discussing the dangers of a communist base in Nicaragua told members of Congress that they had to either stand with the President and resist the Contras or side with Daniel Ortega and the communists.

27. No one has been able to prove the existence of ESP. We must conclude that ESP is a myth.

28. A few minutes after Gov. Davis finished his speech, a devastating earthquake rocked Los Angeles. For the safety of the people of LA, please, no more speeches by Gov. Davis.

29. There are more churches in New York City than in any other city in the nation, and more crimes are committed in New York City than anywhere else in the country. If we want to eliminate crimes, we must abolish the churches.

30. Six months after President Hoover took office in 1929, the stock market crashed and the Great Depression began. Hoover is therefore responsible for this tragic episode in our nation's history.

31. I hardly think that 58 is the right age at which to talk about a retirement home unless there are some serious health concerns. In this era, when people are living to a healthy and ripe old age, it's jumping the gun. My 85-year-old mother power-walks two miles each

day, drives her car (safely), climbs stairs, does crosswords, reads the daily paper.

32. "The only policy that effectively reduces public shootings is right-to-carry laws. Allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns reduces violent crime. In the 31 states that have passed right-to-carry laws since the mid-1980s, the number of multiple-victim public shootings and other violent crimes has dropped dramatically. Murders fell by 7.65%, rapes by 5.2%, aggravated assaults by 7%, and robberies by 3%."

("The Media Campaign Against Gun Ownership", The Phyllis Schlafly Report, Vol. 33, No. 11, June 2000.)

33. Fred said that he is smarter than Jill, but he didn't prove it, so it must be false.

34. I asked three of my friends what they thought of the new spending restraints by the Bush administration and they agreed it is a good idea. The new restraints are therefore generally popular.

35. Smoking marijuana definitely leads to heroin use. A report by the U.S. Commissioner of Narcotics on a study of 2,213 hardcore narcotic addicts in the Lexington, Kentucky, Federal Hospital shows that 70.4% smoked marijuana before they got hooked on heroin.

36. Perhaps the best evidence that the Civil Rights Act of 1990 is not a quota bill is that Orrin Hatch, a fervent opponent of quotas, recommended it to the White House.

37. The travel promoted by détente was one of the causes of the Solidarity movement in Poland. A group of sociologists who studied 10,000 Solidarity activists found that about 70% had spent at least a month in the West (mainly in Sweden or West Germany) prior to becoming involved with the Solidarity movement.

