



LOGIC FALLACIES

..... TRY TO AVOID MAKING THESE

STRAWMAN



- When you misrepresent someone's argument to make it easier to attack.

FALSE CAUSE



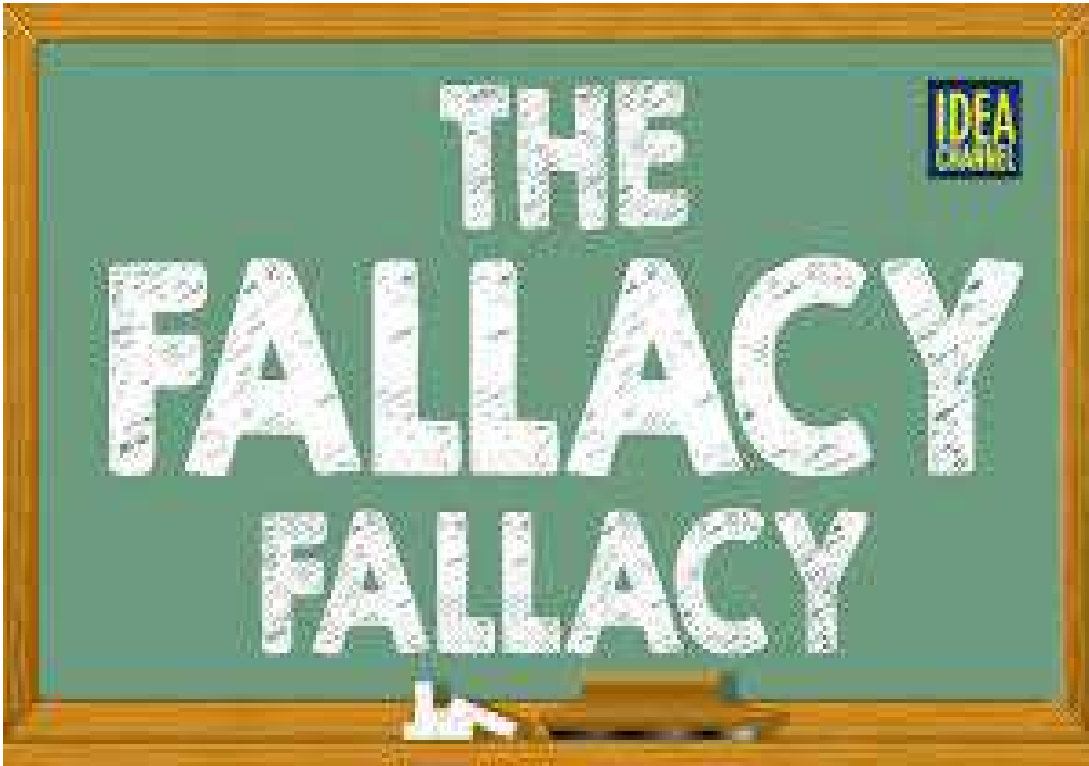
- Presuming that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other.

APPEAL TO EMOTION



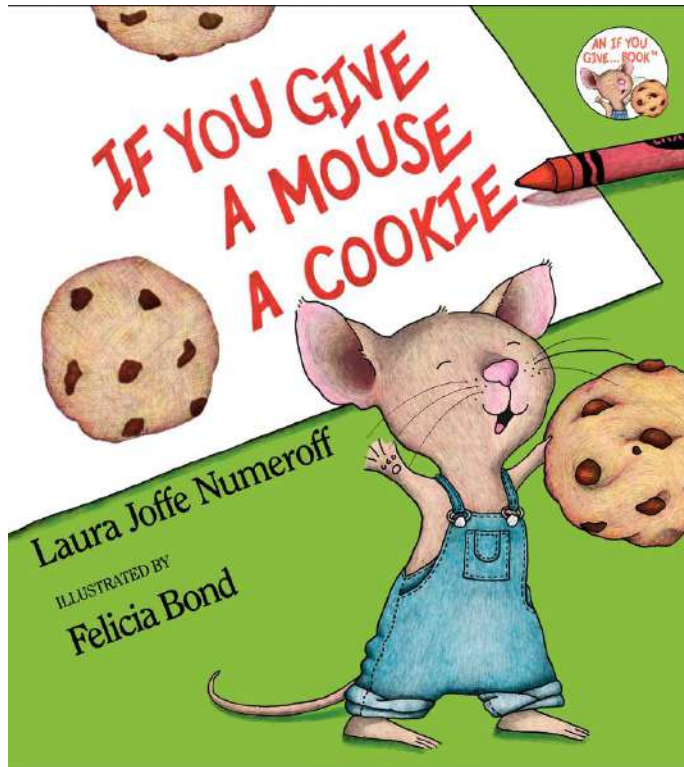
- Manipulating an emotional response in place of a valid or compelling argument.

THE FALLACY FALLACY



- Just because a claim contained a fallacy, or was poorly argued, that the whole claim is wrong.

SLIPPERY SLOPE



- Asserting that if we let, “A” happen then things will breakdown all the way down to, “Z”.

AD HOMINEM

This is when you attack your opponent's character, or personal traits in an attempt to undermine the argument.



TU QUOQUE



- Avoiding having to engage with criticism by turning it back on the accuser- answering criticism with criticism

PERSONAL INCREDULITY



- Saying something is untrue, when in reality, the person committing this fallacy doesn't understand. In other words, "I don't understand this, therefore, it's not true".

SPECIAL PLEADING



- Moving the goalposts to create exceptions when a claim is shown to be false.

LOADED QUESTION



- Asking a question that has an assumption built into it so that it can't be answered without appearing guilty.

BURDEN OF PROOF



- Saying that the burden of proof lies not with the person making the claim, but with someone else to disprove.

AMBIGUITY



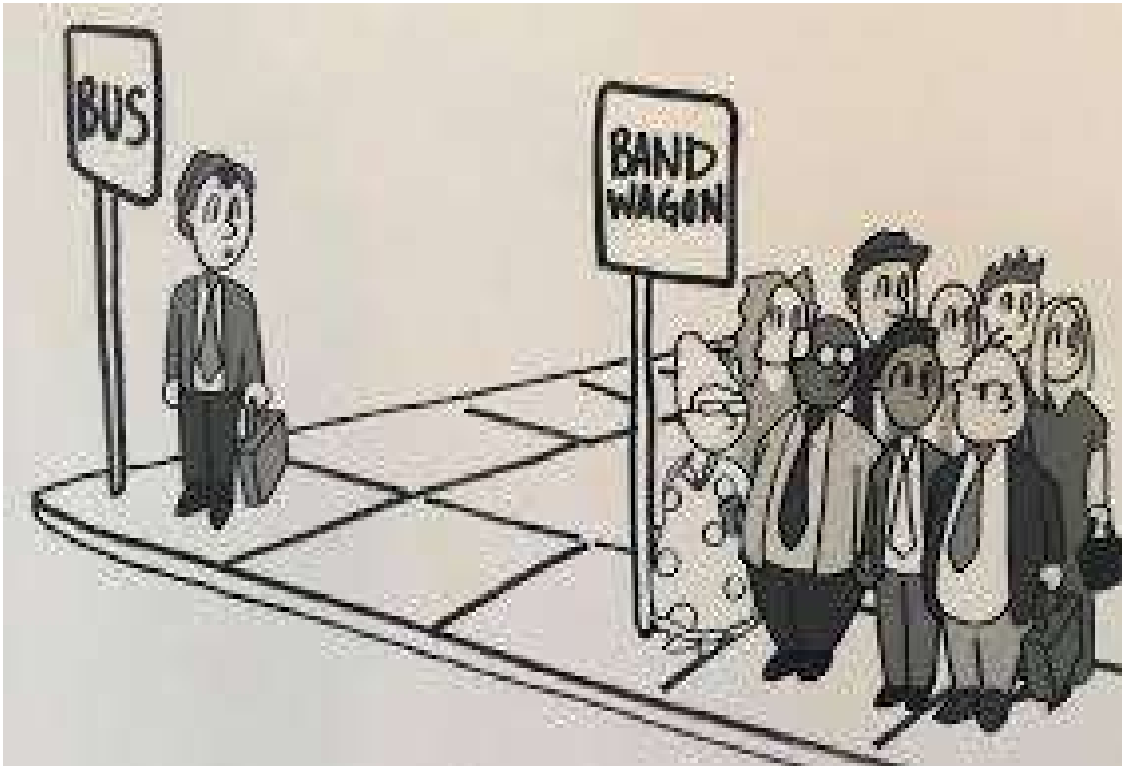
- Using double meanings, or ambiguities of language to mislead or misrepresent the truth.

THE GAMBLER'S FALLACY



- Believing that, “runs”, occur to statistically independent phenomena such as coin flips and roulette spins.

BANDWAGON



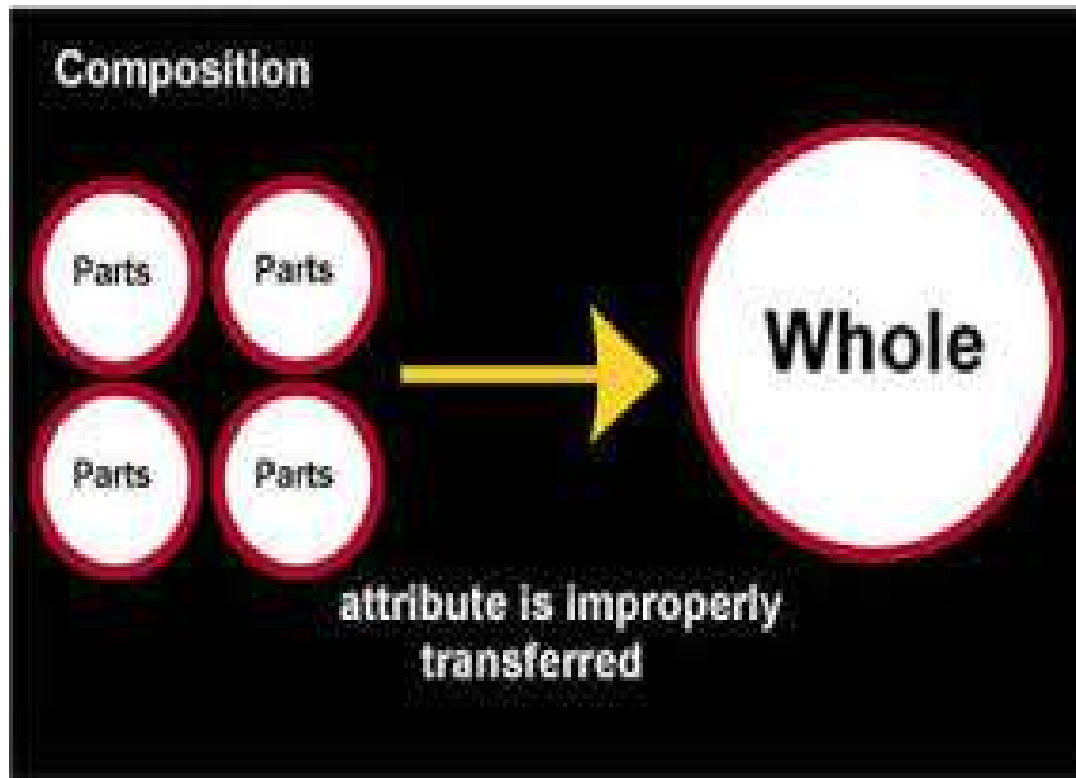
- Appealing to popularity, or the fact that many people do something as an attempted form of validation.

APPEAL TO AUTHORITY



- Using the opinion or position of an authority figure, or institution of authority, in place of an actual argument.

COMPOSITION/DIVISION



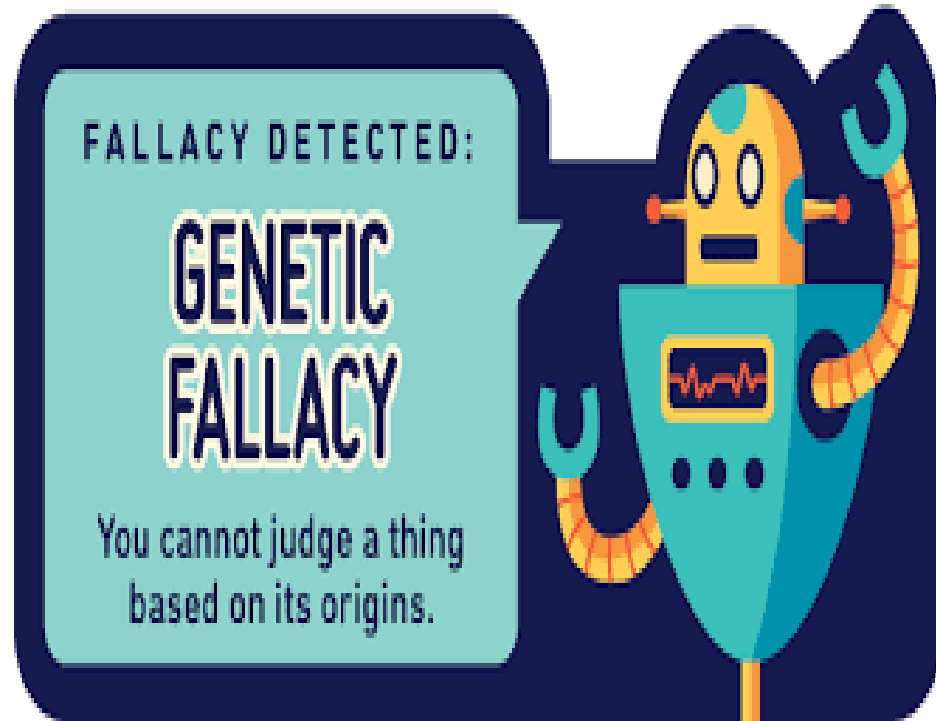
- Assuming that what's true about one part of something has to be applied to all, or other, parts of it.

NO TRUE SCOTSMAN



- Making what could be called an appeal to purity as a way to dismiss relevant criticisms or flaws of an argument.

GENETIC



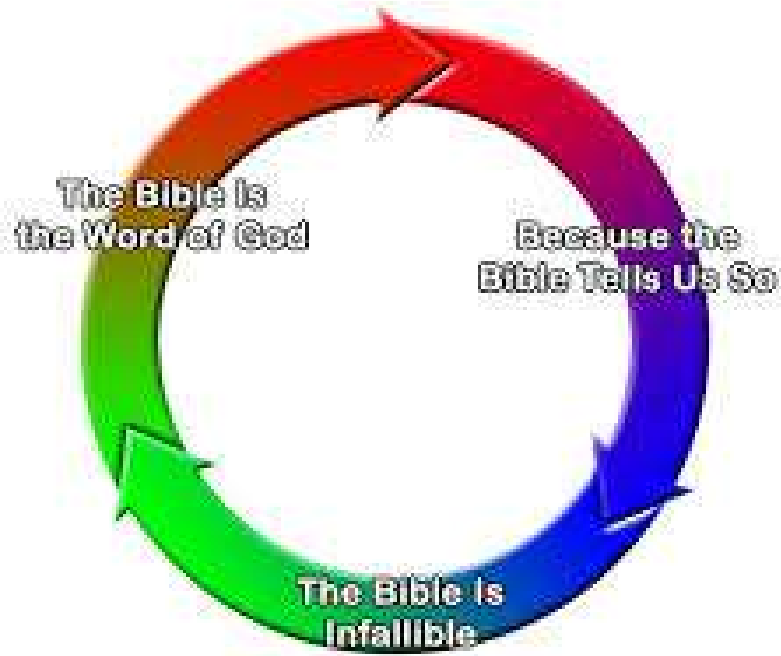
- Judging something good or bad on the basis of where it comes from, or from whom it comes.

BLACK-OR-WHITE



- Where two alternative states are presented as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities exist.

BEGGING THE QUESTION



- A circular argument in which the conclusion is included in the premise.

APPEAL TO NATURE

Just because a chemical was
artificially created in a lab
does not mean it's bad.



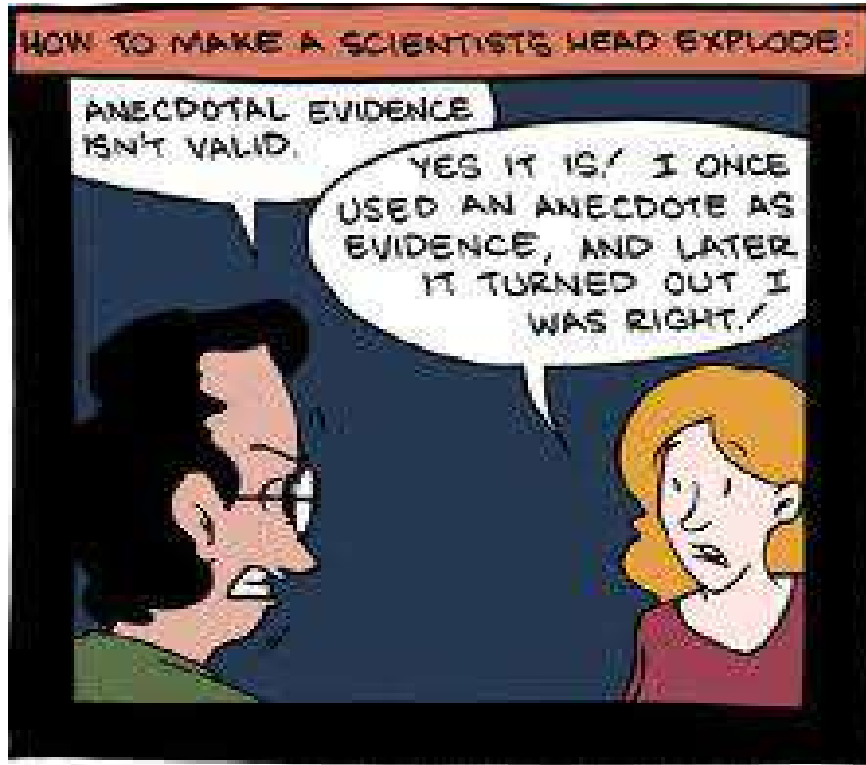
Just because a chemical
occurs naturally does not
mean it's good.



Credit: Real Clear Science

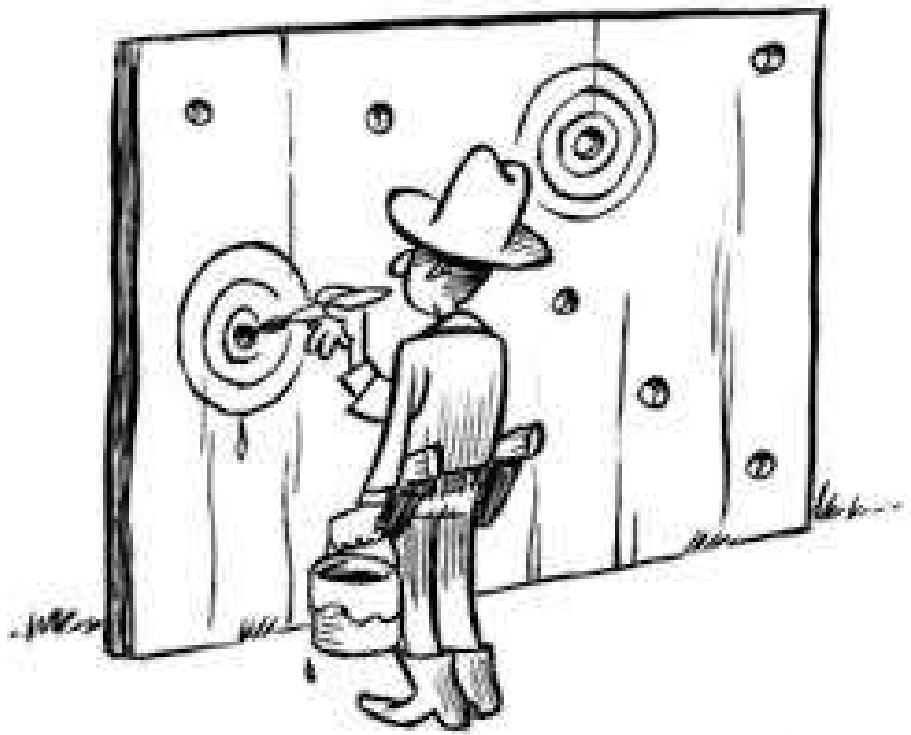
- Making the argument that because something is, “natural” it is therefore valid, justified, inevitable, good, or ideal.

ANECDOTAL



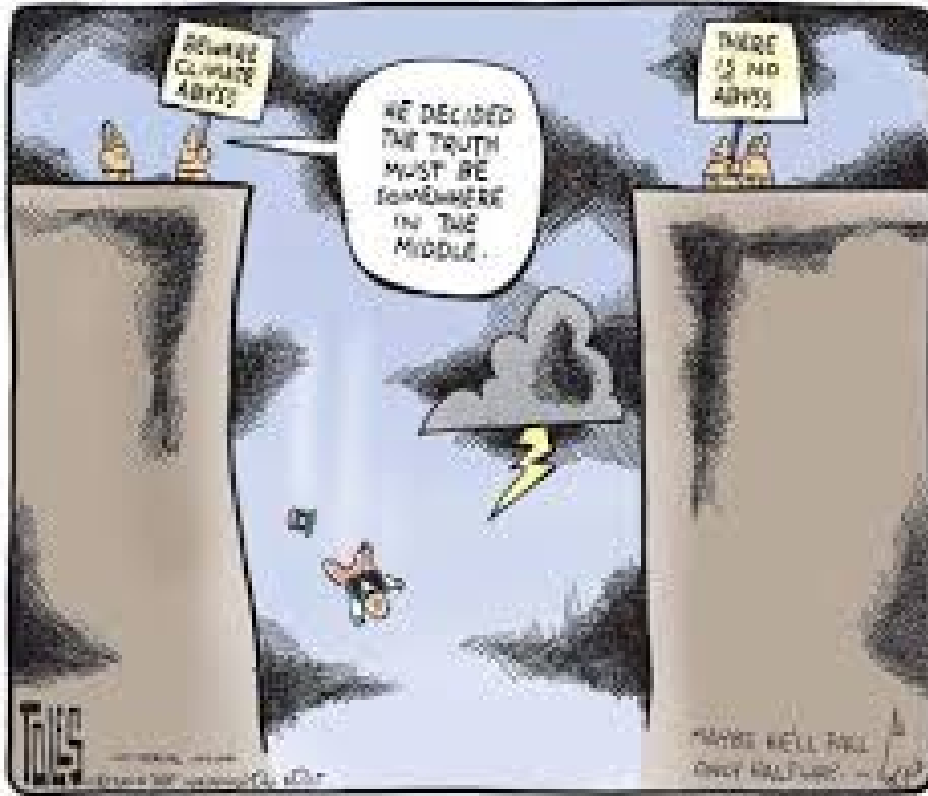
- Using personal experience, or an isolated example instead of a valid argument, especially to dismiss statistics.

THE TEXAS SHARPSHOOTER



- Cherry-picking data clusters to suit an argument, or finding a pattern to fit a presumption.

MIDDLE GROUND



- Saying that a compromise, or a middle point, between two extremes is the truth.