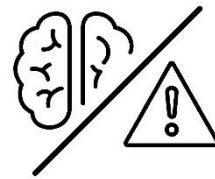


Critical Thinking—Logical Fallacies

Logical fallacies are flaws in reasoning

Understanding and identifying logical fallacies is helpful for

- developing critical thinking skills
- developing academic writing skills
- critically evaluating information
- accurately interpreting research results
- building sound arguments
- avoiding bias
- developing ethical reasoning
- avoiding being misled by others



Logical fallacies occur due to ...

Evidence Problems

- statements presented without supporting evidence
- evidence that is irrelevant to the claim
- considering only part of the available evidence
- misrepresenting or ignoring contradictory evidence
- correlation treated as causation
- overgeneralisation of results from limited evidence

Reasoning Problems

- the conclusion does not logically follow from the premises
- only selected options are presented or considered when more options exist
- faulty comparisons or analogies
- claims based on unacknowledged assumptions
- oversimplification of complex issues

Manipulation of the Rhetoric

- personal attacks on people, groups, or organisations instead of addressing ideas
- biased or emotive language
- popularity or tradition used as justification rather than evidence
- attempts to redirect attention away from the argument

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