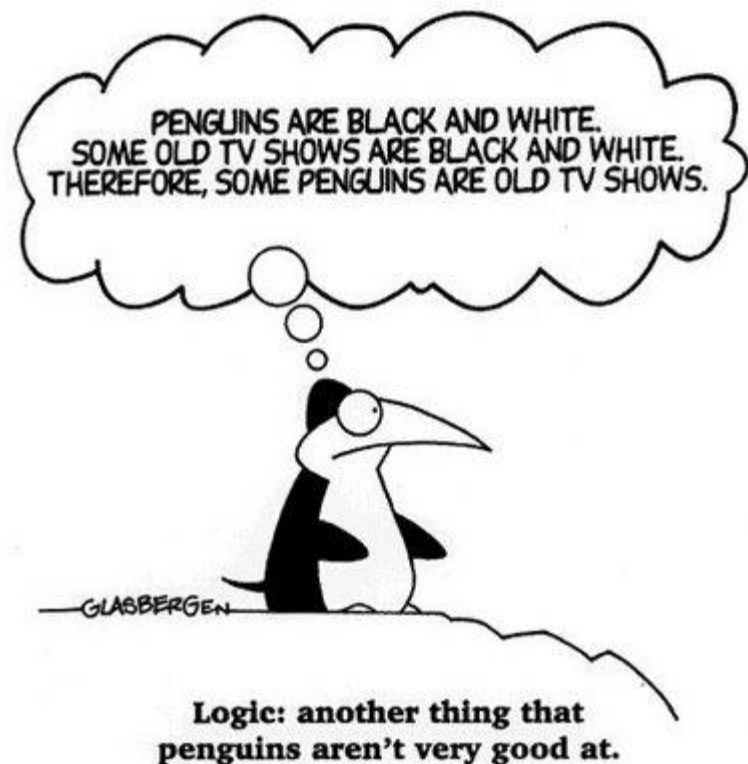


Logic and Fallacies



What is Logic?



Logic: An important aspects of strong thinking.

Logic works like a road map.

A development of ideas that connect where we have been with where we are and where we are heading.

Without logic, one might say, "I'm lost," or "you lost me there."

When we see the relationships between ideas, we are more likely to "get" the whole picture.

- A good writer has to be sure to be sure that his/her writing will seem logical to the audience.



Understanding Fallacies

- Fallacy: A conclusion or make argument that doesn't make sense.
- Remember that just because an argument contains a fallacy does not mean that it is wrong; it just means that it cannot be used as a positive proof.
- For specific fallacies, continue on in the presentation!

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



© Mark Parisi, Permission required for use.

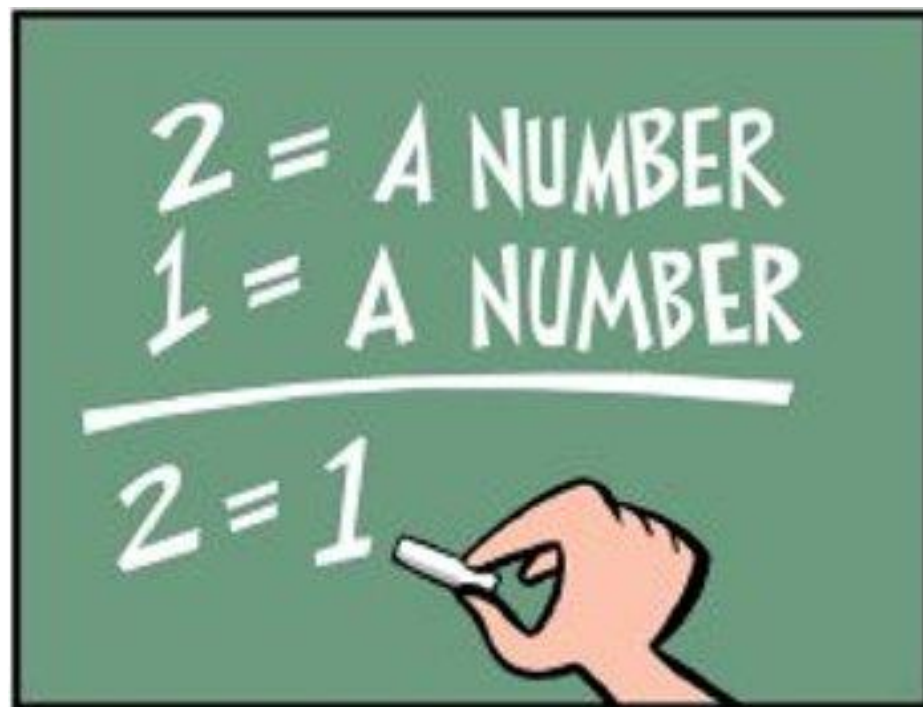
Ad Hominem



- Ad Hominem: When we argue against the person instead of the argument.
- Example: If you hear that someone has made a certain argument, and you reply that everyone knows this person is an idiot, you are missing the point that even idiots can sometimes be right.

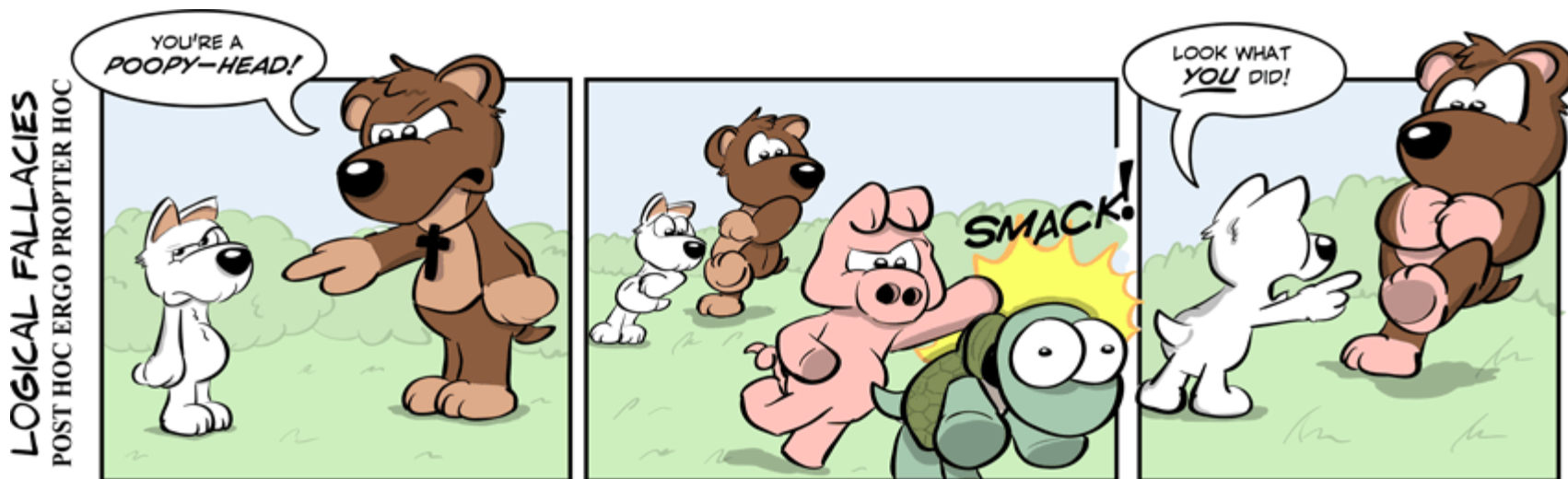
Hasty Generalization

- Hasty Generalization:
Conclusions based upon two few facts or observations.
- Example: If you can't speak French and don't know anyone who can speak French, can you conclude that no one in the world can speak French?



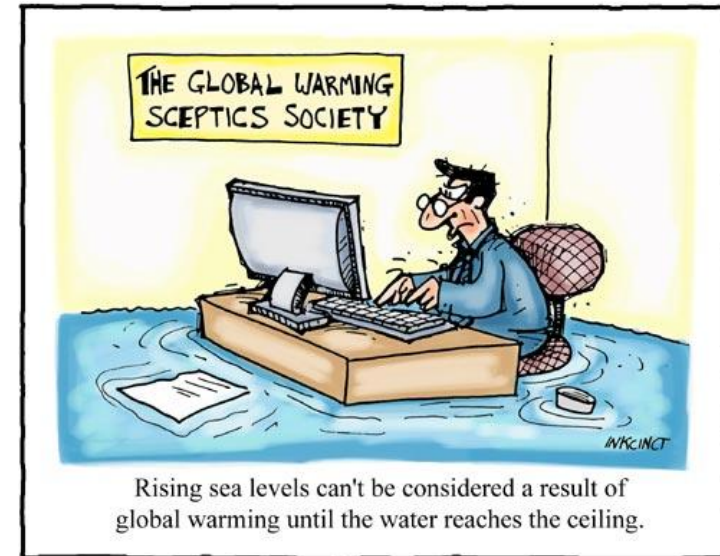
Post Hoc

- Post Hoc: Short for post hoc, ergo propter hoc, it refers to the belief that something caused something because it happened first.
- Example: If George is seen talking to the principal, and the principal later correctly accuses Tom of stealing something from a classroom, it does not mean that George told on Tom. Something that happened before something else might be the cause of what happened, but you need more evidence to show the causal link.



Single Cause

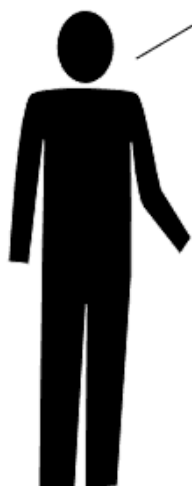
- Single Cause: Looking for one cause for an event, when in fact it may have a complex set of causes, none of which would have been enough to cause the event by itself.
- Example: When two students in Colorado murdered many of their classmates in a famous school shooting, many people looked for "a reason." One of them that was cited was the fact that the two boys played the game *Doom* over and over, setting it in a mode where they could kill people in the game with total immunity for their own characters. Others pointed out that they had been pushed around by bullying athletes, especially football players. In all likelihood, there was no single cause; it was a complex combination of all of them together that pushed them over the edge.





Begging the Question

Begging the Question - When a premise in an argument assumes the conclusion to be correct.



I said "I am always right"
Because I said it, it must be right
Conclusion: I am always right

When a series of assumptions pretend to be an argument.

ThadGuy.com

- Begging the Question: When you assume that your conclusion is true when you make your argument.
- Example: "Ghosts must exist, because I have had many weird and unexplainable feelings late at night that must have been caused by ghosts." Notice that you could substitute "aliens," "leprechauns," "overactive imagination," or a variety of other words for ghosts and come to the same conclusion.

Bandwagon

- Bandwagon: *If everybody thinks this way, it must be true.*
- Example: In studies, groups of people lied about what they were seeing on test cards in a pre-arranged pattern, and the people who were not "in on it" almost always went along with what the group said, even when it was obviously wrong.

