

Chapter 6 Homework

Exercise 6-1

Instructions: Determine which **relevance fallacy**, if any, is present in the following passages. Remember that with some passages, more than one fallacy may fit.

1) Save your money. Nothing will make your teeth perfectly white.

2) Jane complains because she doesn't like the way I clean. Of course, she wants to be able to eat off the floor.

3) Don't read The New York Times. It's filled with liberal propaganda.

4) Ben Shapiro?! He's a transphobic white supremacist. You can't believe what he says about crime rates in Chicago.

5) If you don't support gender-affirming care for minors then you are a bigot who does not support LGBTQ rights.

6) It isn't *guns* that need controlling. It's *people* who need controlling! Guns don't kill people, *people* kill people! I get furious when I hear people miss this point!

7) Skeptic: Why is the book of Genesis from the Bible the only acceptable account on how the world came into existence?

Believer: Show me an explanation that makes more sense.

8) The prices at Starbucks? A rip off. I get better coffee at McDonald's.

9) I'm telling you, something was holding me in bed in the middle of the night. I didn't see or hear anything, but there were hands—or something—on my chest and stomach pushing me into the bed. You can't convince me it wasn't something supernatural doing it.

10) Acid indigestion, if untreated, might burn a hole in your stomach lining. Get Pepcid AC.

11) Not picking up your dog is unsanitary, since it is so unhygienic.

12) Baking powder is toxic. How could you doubt that?

13) We have every right to be late on the rent! Management won't fix anything. The toilet is leaking and the doorbell doesn't work. They won't even let us paint or keep a pet!

14) Don't you get sick of hearing her brag? I'll bet she expects us to believe her, too.

15) Bill: Students these days are lazy. They don't care about learning.

Jill: Are you just saying that, or do you have evidence?

Bill: Well, remember how hard we worked when we were students?

16) Portman says we ought to allow gays to marry, but he wouldn't say that if his son weren't gay.

17) Biden has done an excellent job, when you consider how the Republicans have tried to destroy him with endless attacks and ad hominem arguments.

18) Their proposal is 90 percent predictable, and 90 percent bad for the country. But what would you expect, coming from Republicans?

19) Bill: Space aliens are real.

Jill: Oh, Bill, how can you say such a thing?

Bill: Because only space aliens would have the power to erase all evidence of their existence.

20) Sure, it sounds good in theory, but curbing violence in movies doesn't make sense. It's crazy to think they should only make movies for kids.

21) If you don't align yourself a little better with conservatism you might find yourself facing a challenge come next primary. Just saying.

22) He wants to lower the drinking age? Forget about that. He owns a liquor store.

23) Anti-gun person: Most homicides are committed with guns that were originally purchased legally.

Gun person: Where did you hear that?

Anti-gun person: Where did you hear that they weren't?

24) How could God have created the world if God didn't exist?

25) Sure, a cruise would be nice, but we can't spend every last cent on vacations.

Exercise 6-2

Instructions: Choose five passages from exercise 6-1 that are, in fact, fallacies and turn them into arguments. In other words, add a relevant premise or conclusion so that the passages you choose can no longer be considered fallacies.