

## 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) Limbaugh! That pompous windbag. You can't believe what he says about climate science.

# 5) If you don't support same sex marriage, then you are a homophobe who flat out hates gays.

# 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 and shiftless. 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) Obama 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.