

## Chapter 7 Classwork

### *Exercise 7-3*

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

# 1) The idea that black people in this country live in poverty is ridiculous. Look at Obama. He's the president and he's got money. So do Denzell Washington and Oprah Winfrey.

# 2) When a car breaks down so often that repairs become pointless, the car is thrown on the junk heap. Similarly, when a person becomes old and decreed, he or she should be mercifully put to death.

# 3) The Pope has said that artificial insemination of women is immoral. We can only conclude that the practice is, in fact, immoral.

# 4) The farmers of our state have asked that we introduce legislation to provide subsidies for soybeans. Unfortunately, we will have to turn down their request. If we give subsidies to the soybean farmers, then the corn and wheat growers will ask for the same thing. Then it will be the cotton growers, citrus growers, truck farmers, and cattle raisers. In the end, the cost will be astronomical.

# 5) Raising a child is like growing a tree. Sometimes violent things, such as cutting off branches, have to be done to force the tree to grow straight. Similarly, corporal punishment must sometimes be inflicted on children to force them to develop properly.

# 6) Professor Glazebrook's theory about the origin of the Martian craters is undoubtedly true. Rudolf Orkin, the great concert pianist, announced his support for the theory in today's newspaper.

# 7) On Friday I took Virginia out to dinner. She told me that if I wasn't interested in a serious relationship, I should forget about dating her. On Saturday I took Yaneth to a film. When we discussed it afterward over a drink, she couldn't understand why I wasn't interested in babies. Women are all alike. All they want is a secure marriage.

# 8) What goes up must come down. The price of gold has been going up for months. Therefore, it will surely come down.

# 9) Domestic terrorism is on the rise these days. Apparently those right-wing podcasts are starting to have an effect on people's behavior.

#10) The birds in this garden have really friendly temperaments. I bet other birds of the same species have similar temperaments everywhere.

# 11) My son learned how to play classical music on the piano when he was 5. And by the time he was 8, he was reading classic literature like Plato and Chaucer. I'm not sure why other parents can't get their kids to excel like my son. If my son can do it, so can other children.

# 12) Everyone should have access to college education. So anyone who applies to UCSD should get in.

# 13) A blind peer review study from PEW [a respected academic institution] showed that there is institutional bias in our county's police department. So there is bias in that department, and we should do something to change it.

# 14) I had an amazing time when I went on the spiritual retreat. People were so nice to me. And when we prayed, I actually finally saw Zoroaster in a vision. I know now for certain that Zoroaster is the true prophet and that he died for our sins.

# 15) I had an amazing time when I went on the spiritual retreat. People were so nice to me. And when we prayed, I saw something I can't explain. I know it may not be the same for everyone, but the experience was very powerful for me.

# 16) In every geographical region, people believe in some sort of supernatural entity—be it the Tao, Allah, Yahweh, or something else. Even obscure ancient African and Latin American religions believed in divine forces in nature. Given all this, how can atheists deny the existence of a higher power?

# 17) Every time I plan a picnic, it rains. I don't think I'll plan a picnic for a while. We don't need any more rain.

# 18) Now that I've opened this bag of potato chips, I might as well finish it.

# 19) All my college professors believe that evolution happened. The vast majority of scientists believe it, and most people in the most highly educated countries believe it. How can people still doubt evolution? It obviously happened.

# 20) Birds can fly. But penguins can't fly, so they're not birds.

# 21) The Beatles were the best rock group of the 1960s—they sold more records than any other group.

# 22) I'm shocked to hear you preaching atheism—does your dad know you believe that?

# 23) I know why he keeps getting sick, he was a bad person in his previous life.

# 24) I should get a dog. After all, they are great companions and have been known to cure loneliness. Plus, I love dogs.

# 25) Last year student test scores at our school were lower than usual. We responded by having teachers emphasize spelling. This year the scores were higher, showing how spelling helps kids learn.

#### *Exercise 7-4*

Instructions: Choose five passages from exercise 7-3 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.