

# FALLACIES OF ARGUMENT



# FALLACY

- **Definition:**
  - A fallacy is an argument that uses poor, or invalid, reasoning which appears to be correct, but is not. An argument can be fallacious whether or not its conclusion is true.



# FALLACIES OF ARGUMENT

- Scare Tactics/Overly Sentimental Appeals
- Either-Or Choices
- Slippery Slope
- Bandwagon
- Appeals to False Authority
- Ad Hominem Arguments
- Equivocation
- Non Sequitur
- Straw Man
- Red Herring



# YOU'RE THE TEACHER!

- You will get into groups of three of your own choosing. Chose your group members wisely.
- Your group is responsible for researching, understanding, and—most importantly—teaching your assigned fallacy to the class.
- Remember, I am not the teacher—you are. You are responsible for the class's understanding of your assigned term. Assume that if students don't know the term, it's your fault. Also remember that if the students are bored, it's your fault. Be engaging and energetic.
- Your presentation is worth 220pts.
- Additionally, you will be tested on your knowledge and application of these terms.



# DO A GOOD JOB!

If you don't do a good job teaching your fallacy, your students will fail the test. If your students fail the test, they will get a bad grade. If your students get a bad grade, they will go home angry and disgruntled. If your students go home angry and disgruntled, they will get into an argument with their parents. If your students get into an argument with their parents, their parents will kick them out of the house. If your students are kicked out of their houses, they will become homeless. If your students become homeless, they will become a burden on the State of Utah. If your students become a burden to the State of Utah, taxes will be increased.

In short, if you don't do a good job teaching your fallacy, you will pay more money in taxes.



# YOUR PRESENTATION MUST...

- include a clear definition of your assigned fallacy.
- include five to seven examples of your fallacy (print ads, commercials, Nazi propaganda, political ads, your own examples, etc.).
- present your information in a PowerPoint.
  - A word of caution: Go easy on the transitions and animations. Ask yourself: Is this transition/animation enhancing the presentation, or is it distracting from the content? If it's distracting, GET RIDE OF IT!
- be 4-6 minutes.
- check for students' understanding.
  - Use two to three follow-up questions to ensure the class understands the concept. For example, *Okay class, what is a bandwagon fallacy?* and *Who can give me an example from their own life of a red herring?*

