

EXERCISE 48–1 Evaluating Arguments

Explain what is illogical in the following brief arguments. It may be helpful to identify the logical fallacy or fallacies by name.

- a. All of my blind dates have been embarrassing disasters, so I know this one will be too.
 - b. If you're old enough to vote, you're old enough to drink. Therefore, the drinking age should be lowered to eighteen.
 - c. This country has been run too long by old, out-of-date, out-of-touch, entrenched politicians protecting the special interests that got them elected.
 - d. It was possible to feed a family of four on \$100 a week before Governor Leroy took office and drove up food prices.
 - e. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.
1. Whenever I wash my car, it rains. I have discovered a way to end all droughts—get all the people to wash their cars.
 2. Either learn how to build a Web site or you won't be able to get a decent job after college.
 3. College professors tend to be sarcastic. Three of my five professors this semester make sarcastic remarks.
 4. Although Ms. Bell's book on Joe DiMaggio was well researched, I doubt that an Australian historian can contribute much to our knowledge of an American baseball player.
 5. Self-righteous nonsmoking fanatics have eroded our basic individual freedoms by railroading the passage of oppressive antismoking laws that interfere with our natural right to make our own decisions.

EXERCISE 48-1 Evaluating Arguments (continued)

6. If professional sports teams didn't pay athletes such high salaries, we wouldn't have so many kids breaking their legs at hockey and basketball camps.
7. Ninety percent of the students oppose a tuition increase; therefore, the board of trustees should not pass the proposed increase.
8. If the president had learned the lesson of Vietnam, he would realize that sending U.S. troops into a foreign country can only end in disaster.
9. A mandatory ten-cent deposit on bottles and cans will eliminate litter because everyone I know will return the containers for the money rather than throw them away.
10. Soliciting money to save whales and baby seals is irresponsible when thousands of human beings can't afford food and shelter.