

Name _____

Date _____

Class Sec _____

Instructions: Use the word bank below to figure out the informal fallacies below. On the next page, an explanation of the word bank items has been written in case you need extra help.

Ad Hominem	Strawman
Composition	Origin
Division	Begging the Question
False Cause	Equivocation

- 1) _____ "Every time I wash my car it rains the next day; so, my car washing definitely affects the weather!"
- 2) _____ "Frank got out of jail last year. I can't trust anything he says because of his past."
- 3) _____ "Look, I just know my opponent is wrong because he is an idiot!"
- 4) _____ "All the individual neurons in your brain compose the experience of the mind."
- 5) _____ "Your honor, the defendant is guilty because he committed the crime!"
- 6) _____ "Well, the team he was in won the championship every year so he must be a good player! "
- 7) _____ **Charlie:** Illegal posting and sharing of songs online is hurting the music industry. **Bob, replying to Charlie:** You couldn't be more wrong; the music industry is doing just fine. I can't believe you think the government should be allowed to regulate what I share with my "friends." No one wants a world where I can't loan a book to my girlfriend, let my roommate borrow my iPod, or share a funny meme with my blog followers.
- 8) _____ **Person 1:** Noisy children are a real headache. **Person 2:** Two aspirin will make a headache go away.

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Informal Fallacies List & Explanation

Ad Hominem: Attacking someone's character or insulting them as a means to say they are wrong.

False Cause: Say that right now, you say to yourself "I'm hungry". At that precise moment, someone walks into your room and says, "Hey, do you want this cake I made?". Would you assume that your saying that you were hungry caused the person to walk into your room with said cake?

Composition: This fallacy takes place when a person assumes that a part of something explains or captures the truth about the whole of what is being described.

Division: Occurs when one reasons that something that is true for a whole must also be true of all or some of its parts.

Origin/Genetic fallacy: is a logical fallacy that occurs when someone judges a claim simply based on its origin; its source and where it came from. Rather than looking at the possible good qualities of the claim, it's accepted or rejected on the basis of from whom or where it came from.

Strawman: In the strawman fallacy, the person you are arguing, either aware of it or not, changes little details to distort the original argument.

Begging the Question: This fallacy occurs when the premises that are meant to support an argument already assume that the conclusion is true. The only thing that makes this argument work is itself.

Equivocation: The fallacy of equivocation occurs when a key term or phrase in an argument is used in an unclear way, with one meaning in one portion of the argument and then another meaning in another portion of the argument. To avoid this, it's good to ask questions like "what do you mean when you say this word?"