

Name: _____

HZT4U

Mr. Ko

Identifying Informal Fallacies

For each of the following, decide what informal fallacy has been committed. Each will be one of the 14 as described in your textbook. Refer your text if need be.

- 1) A few days after I ate one chocolate bar, my face broke out. Therefore, a chocolate bar will always cause my face to break out.
- 2) Professor Smith is unmarried, rides a motorcycle, and seldom wears a necktie. Therefore, his theory of mind-body relationship is no good.
- 3) It is obvious that the present administration is weary and incompetent, for everyone can see the extent of its fatigue and inability to act effectively or coordinate its actions.
- 4) Women should not be allowed to join this club, because only men should be permitted to join.
- 5) We are not going to heed the counsel of Harriman and Vance because they have been failures in their personal lives.
- 6) It has not been proven that nuclear plants are dangerous, thus they aren't a hazard.
- 7) All transistors, diodes, resistors, and other electronic components in this new circuit that Harold designed are okay and will work. Therefore, this circuit is okay and will work.
- 8) No one has proved that smoking marijuana is harmless. Therefore, it must be harmful.
- 9) It is a false idea that education should encourage independent thinking and make students "think for themselves". If students had to think things out independently of all we know of great thinkers from the past, how far should they get? We don't want them to think for themselves, but to think rightly: their thinking must be dependent upon the great thinkers.
- 10) Medicine X has no proven medical effectiveness. Therefore, it is medically ineffective.
- 11) Is there life after death? Almost everyone believes there is, so it must be true.
- 12) No right turn is allowed at this corner, so I conclude that we are supposed to make a wrong turn.

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- 13) All Korean soldiers are small. Therefore, the Korean army is a small army.
- 14) Linda's paper is the best in the class, because no other paper in the class is as good as Linda's.
- 15) Through free enterprise we have built a powerful economic structure, the greatest in the world. Now because a few defects exist in it, our opponents, the Democrats, say to tear it down and demolish it completely. We republicans say repair it where necessary. So, vote Republican!
- 16) The proof that this work is good is that it is of high quality.
- 17) The person sitting in front of me on the beach is starting to get a terrible sunburn on her back, but I shouldn't tell her or warn her about it because that would be interfering in her life, which would be wrong.
- 18) For over 100 years, this has been a women's college. Se we certainly shouldn't start admitting male students now!
- 19) Abortion, by definition, is the taking of human life while it is developing in the womb. The taking of human life is murder. Therefore, abortion is murder.
- 20) If you fail this test, then you will fail this course. If you fail this course, you will not get into university. If you fail to go to university, you will fail to get a good job. If you fail to get a good job, you will be miserable. Therefore, this test is the most important test you will ever take.
- 21) Cars are not to be driven more than 10 km/hr on campus because of the dust conditions. I don't care how badly he is bleeding; you will have to do the best you can until you get to the hospital.
- 22) It's always been done this way, so this is the best way.
- 23) Engineers have not proven that it would unsafe to launch the shuttle in cold weather. Therefore, it is safe.
- 24) C'mon, try snorting this cocaine with us. The whole gang's doing it.
- 25) My ex-husband was mean and cruel. Therefore, all men are mean and cruel.