

# Author's Cheat Sheet on Writing

## Fallacious arguments to use

**Ad Hominem (Argument To The Man)** attack the arguer, not the argument

**Affirming The Consequent** logic reversal, where the conclusion becomes the premise and the premise is now the conclusion

**Amazing Familiarity** the speaker seems to have information that there is no possible way for him to get

**Ambiguous Assertion** a statement is made, but it is sufficiently unclear that it leaves some sort of leeway

**Appeal To / Argument From [Anonymous/False/?] Authority/Character**

**Appeal To Coincidence, or To Complexity, or To Force** fact due to chance, no understanding so all opinions O.K., threats

**Appeal To Pity (Appeal to Sympathy, The Galileo Argument)** because they are suffering for their beliefs

**Appeal To Widespread Belief (Bandwagon Argument, Peer Pressure, Appeal To Common Practice)**

**Argument By Emotive Language (Appeal To The People)** use of emotionally loaded words to sway the audience

**Argument By Generalization** drawing broad conclusion from a few perhaps unrepresentative cases

**Argument By Gibberish (Bafflement)** where an inventive vocabulary is helpful – combine words to add complexity

**Argument By Half Truth (Suppressed Evidence)** “this is hard to detect, you have to ask questions and do some digging”

**Argument By Laziness (Argument By Uninformed Opinion)** author is uninformed but wants you to trust him anyway

**Argument By Pigheadedness (Doggedness)** refusing to accept something that others have found sufficient evidence for

**Argument By Poetic Language** “if it sounds good, it must be right”

**Argument By Prestigious Jargon** use of technical vocabulary to seem more like an exalted expert

**Argument By Question, or By Rhetorical Question** asking a question in a way that elicits some specific response

**Argument By Repetition (Argument Ad Nauseam)** if you say something enough, people will believe it

**Argument By Scenario** making a story that ties unrelated things together, then claiming they are therefore related – they are in story!

**Argument By Selective Observation** counting the hits and forgetting the misses

**Argument By Selective Reading** making it seem like the weakest of the opposing arguments happens to be the best to devalue rest

**Argument By Slogan** if it is short and connected to an argument, it must be the argument

**Argument From Adverse Consequences (Appeal To Fear, Scare Tactics)** this is wrong b/c else bad things happen

**Argument From Age (Wisdom of the Ancients)** argument that old/new arguments are better (“New and Improved!”)

**Argument From Small Numbers** assumption that small numbers are the same as big numbers

**Argument From Spurious Similarity** resemblance as proof of relationship

**Argument Of The Beard** (continuum->both extremes the same)

**Argument To The Future** argument that one day evidence will be discovered which will then support your argument

**Bad Analogy** claiming that two situations are highly similar, when they are not

**Begging The Question (Assuming The Answer, Tautology)** reasoning in a circle – the premise is the conclusion

**Burden Of Proof** claim that whatever is not proven true/false must be true/false (pick one)

**Causal Reductionism (Complex Cause)** trying to use one cause to explain something which really has many causes

**Changing The Subject (Digression, Red Herring, Misdirection, False Emphasis)** useful to avoid making claims

**Cliche Thinking** using a well-known saying as evidence, as if it is perfect

**Claiming Common Sense** “pay attention, I am about to tell you something that inexperienced people often get wrong.”

**Complex Question (Tying)** unrelated points are treated as if they should be accepted or rejected together

**Confusing Correlation And Causation** correlation of numerical results is somehow made to imply causative relationship

**Disproof By Fallacy** if a conclusion can be reached in an obviously fallacious way, then the conclusion is incorrectly declared wrong

**Euphemism** use of a word to sound better in order to avoid objections

**Equivocation** using a word to mean one thing, and then later using it to mean something different

**Error Of Fact** stating some fact which is not true

**Exception That Proves The Rule** some think that this saying allows you to ignore exceptions

**Excluded Middle (False Dichotomy, Faulty Dilemma, Bifurcation)** incorrectly assuming there are only two alternatives

**Extended Analogy** the claim that two things, both analogous to a third thing, are therefore analogous to each other.

**Failure To State** if you make enough attacks / ask enough questions, you may never have to actually define your own position re: topic

**Fallacy Of Composition, or of Division** what is true of the whole is true of the parts, or vice versa, or whole is simple as parts

**Fallacy of The General Rule** assuming that something true in general is true in every possible case

**Fallacy of The Crucial Experiment** claiming that some idea has been proved (or disproved) by a pivotal discovery

**False Cause** assuming that because two things happened, the first one caused the second one

**False Compromise** in confusing debates, it must be “fair” to split the difference, and agree on a compromise between the opinions

**Genetic Fallacy (Fallacy of Origins, Fallacy of Virtue)** particular origin of argument/arguer makes argument right/wrong

**Having Your Cake (Failure To Assert, or Diminished Claim)** almost claiming something, but backing out

**Hypothesis Contrary To Fact** arguing from something that might have happened, but didn't

**Inconsistency** saying that one thing causes another in some particular case, but the same cause is not the reason in another situation

**Inflation Of Conflict** arguing that scholars debate a certain point

**Internal Contradiction** saying two contradictory things in the same argument

**Least Plausible Hypothesis** ignoring all of the most reasonable explanations

**Lies** intentional Errors of Fact

**Meaningless Questions** do I really have to define this for you?

**Misunderstanding The Nature Of Statistics** “99% of all statistics are made up on the spot”

**Moving The Goalposts (Raising The Bar, Argument By Demanding Impossible Perfection)** solve further point

**Needling** simply attempting to make the other person angry, without trying to address the argument at hand

**Non Sequitur** something that does not follow

**Not Invented Here** ideas from elsewhere are made unwelcome

**Outdated Information** information is given, but it is not the latest

**Pious Fraud** a fraud done to accomplish some good end, on the theory that the end justifies the means

**Poisoning The Wells** discrediting the sources used by your opponent, form of Ad Hominem

**Psycho genetic Fallacy** if you make up a psychological reason why somebody makes an argument then his argument is biased/wrong

**Reductio Ad Absurdum** showing that opponent's argument leads to absurd conclusion, can easily be abused

**Reductive Fallacy (Oversimplification)**

**Reifying** an abstract thing is talked about as if it were concrete

**Short Term Versus Long Term** the argument that something must come first, related to the Excluded Middle fallacy

**Slippery Slope Fallacy (Camel's Nose)** the assumption that something is wrong because it can become wrong / is near wrongs

**Special Pleading (Stacking The Deck)** using the arguments that support your position, but ignoring others

**Statement Of Conversion** using confession from somebody that has been converted from beliefs, weakly asserting expertise

**Stolen Concept** using what you are trying to disprove

**Straw Man (Fallacy Of Extension)** attacking an exaggerated or caricatured version of your opponent's position

**Two Wrongs Make A Right (Tu Quoque, You Too)** “it's not wrong because others do wrong things”

**Weasel Wording** words are changed like in euphemism, but they change the concept completely into something new, rather than soften

## Writing tactics

**Alliteration** repetition of sound within short intervals

**Anacoluthon** abrupt syntax change in sentence

**Anadiplosis** ending word repeated at start of next line

**Anaphora** repetition of same word in succession

**Anastrophe** reversal of usual grammatical order for effect

**Antistrophe** repetition of words in reverse order

**Antithesis** the juxtaposition of contrasting ideas for balance

**Aporia** insoluble contradiction or paradox

**Aposiopesis** abrupt end, portrays overcoming with emotion

**Apostrophe** directly addressing absent person/idea/object

**Archaism** word/expression no longer in use

**Assonance** repetition of vowel sounds within short passage

**Asyndeton** lists of words or phrases but w/o conjunctions

**Brachylogy** condensed expression, like ellipsis

**Cacophony** use of unpleasant sounding words to jar reader

**Catachresis** inappropriate metaphor / unusual

**Chiasmus** reverse parallelism, elements of 2<sup>nd</sup> are reversed

**Climax** words/phrases/clauses order of increasing importance

**Euphemism** use of less offensive substitute

**Hendiadys** use of conjoined nouns not noun & modifier

**Hypallage** reversal of the syntactic relation of 2 words

**Hyperbaton** disruption of usual word order

**Hyperbole** deliberate exaggeration/overstatement

**Hysteron-Proteron** of greater importance goes first

**Irony** a meaning concealed behind apparent meaning of phrase

**Litotes** inverse hyperbole, calculated understatement

**Metaphor** comparison between 2 seemingly unrelated things

**Metonymy** reference to concept by attribute of it

**Onomatopoeia** pronunciation suggests meaning

**Oxymoron** combination of contradictory terms

**Paradox** self-contradicting statement

**Parallelism** phrases w/ similar structure & meaning

**Paraprosdokian** unexpected ending to series of phrases

**Paronomasia** pun – confusion of similar-sounding words

**Personification** giving human characteristics to inanimates

**Pleonasm** use of more words than necessary

**Polysyndeton** repetition of conjunctions

**Praeteritio** emphasis on something via pretending not to

**Prolepsis** anticipation of action of verb (results beforehand)

**Simile** shows resemblance between different things

**Syllepsis** word modifies others w/ diff. modifications - incongruity

**Synchysis** interlocked order

**Synecdoche** metaphor w/ parts standing for the whole

**Synesis** agreement of words according to logic, not grammar

**Tautology** useless repetition w/ no new information

**Zeugma** grammatical relation to 2+ terms w/ diff. applications

**Adjective** – modifies noun or pronoun

**Article** - type of adjective which makes a noun specific or indefinite

**Subordinate clause** – conjunction ties in new clause

**Adverb** – modifies verb or adjective

**Antecedent** – word that the pronoun stands for

**Appositive** – describes the noun

**Elliptical clause** – some words left out to avoid repetition

**Fragment** – not a complete thought

**Gerund** – verb ending in “-ing” used as noun

**Indefinite pronouns** – no specification of what it replaces

**Ligature** – two connected symbols to indicate sound

**Noun** - subject

**Participle** – verb used as an adjective

**Predicate** – relates to the subject

**Preposition** – relates nouns and pronouns to other words in the sentence

**Pronoun** – takes the place of noun in sentence

**Relative pronoun** - “relates” a subordinate clause to the rest of the sentence

**Schwa** - the vowel sound in many lightly pronounced unaccented syllables

**Stilted** – writing with long, overblown words

**Superlative** – adverbs or adjectives ending in “-est” or modified by “most”

## Bloom's taxonomy

Knowledge	defines, describes, identifies, knows, labels, lists, matches, names, outlines, recalls, recognizes, reproduces, selects, states.
Comprehension	comprehends, converts, defends, distinguishes, estimates, explains, extends, generalizes, gives examples, infers, interprets, paraphrases, predicts, rewrites, summarizes, translates.
Application	applies, changes, computes, constructs, demonstrates, discovers, manipulates, modifies, operates, predicts, prepares, produces, relates, shows, solves, uses
Analysis	analyzes, breaks down, compares, contrasts, diagrams, deconstructs, differentiates, discriminates, distinguishes, identifies, illustrates, infers, outlines, relates, selects, separates
Synthesis	categorizes, combines, compiles, composes, creates, devises, designs, explains, generates, modifies, organizes, plans, rearranges, reconstructs, relates, reorganizes, revises, rewrites, summarizes, tells, writes
Evaluation	appraises, compares, concludes, contrasts, criticizes, critiques, defends, describes, discriminates, evaluates, explains, interprets, justifies, relates, summarizes, supports