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When people think of arguments, often their first thought of shouting matches is riddled with personal attacks. Ironically, personal attacks run counter to rational arguments. In logic and rhetoric, a personal attack is called ad hominem. Ad hominem is Latin for vs. human. Instead of promoting good sound reasoning, ad hominem replaces logical reasoning with the language of attack, unrelated to the truth of the case. More specifically, ad hominem is a misconception of relevance when someone rejects or criticizes another person's opinion based on personal characteristics, background, appearance or other features unrelated to the argument in question. Ad hominem is more than just an insult. This insult is used as if it were an argument or evidence to support the conclusion. A verbal attack on people proves nothing about the truth or falsehood of their claims. The use of ad hominem is widely known in politics as dirt. Rather than considering a candidate's position on issues, or addressing his or her effectiveness as statesmen or statesmen, the ad hominem focuses on personality issues, speech model, wardrobe, style, and other things that affect popularity but have nothing to do with their competence. Thus, ad hominem can be unethical in seeking to manipulate voters, appealing to inappropriate weaknesses and naming names instead of addressing major issues. In this last election cycle, personal attacks have been volleyed loose from all sides of the political aisle, with Clinton and Trump facing their fair share of ad hominem misconceptions. Ad hominem is an insult used as if it were an argument or proof to support the conclusion. Thread on the croa lists the following doozies against Hillary Clinton: Killing Hillary, Hilla Hoon, Shillari, Hitler, Clinton, Hildetest, Child Rapist Advocate, Corporate Whore, Mr. President, Hail Hillary, Wicked Witch of the West Wing, Robberty Hillary NY Daily News offers a funny list of insults to Donald Trump: Short-fingered vulgar, Angry Creamside, Fascist Carnival Barker, Fckface , Clementine's Racist, Reasonable Caps Lock Button, Cheeto Use ad hominem often signals the point at which civil disagreements have descended into the fight. Whether it was siblings, friends or lovers, most of them had verbal disagreements to collapse into disjointed cries to match angry insults and accusations designed to discredit another person. When these insults supersede a substantial argument, they become ad hominem. Your turn: See if you can tell which one is the ad hominem argument, and which is just an insult. The logical misconception is in reasoning or a false assumption that may seem impressive but proves absolutely nothing. Sometimes they are completely unintentional, but more often than not, they are used by people during debates, arguments or presentations to mislead you into thinking by acting or behaving in a certain way. As you would expect, sellers, politicians and scammers use them all the time very skillfully, and the public innocently continues to fall in love with them. Thus, knowing how to detect a logical delusion and call it or disprove it can be an incredibly useful life tool to have at your disposal. No wonder there are many logical misconceptions, hundreds, in fact, so getting to know them all is a big challenge. But to help you on your way here is a list of the 10 most common for you to get your head around and start your training journey. 1. Ad Hominem Let's start with probably one of the most common criminals. Also called poisoning good or personal attack you'll have I sure saw ad hominem misconception used all the time. How does it work that instead of refuting an opponent's argument, a person attacks a person instead. This may be aimed at their character, morality, intelligence, reputation or authority. In fact, it really doesn't matter; The main thing to remember is that they do not turn to the actual argument presented, but relying solely on feelings and prejudices to win their case. Here are a few typical examples: He's so evil you can't trust the word he's talking about or of course you'd say that because you support (by the way, go ahead, please fill in all the gaps anyway you like!). P.S. There is also a variation of ad Hominem called Wines by Association that you also have to keep an eye out for and the key to how it works in its title! 2. Appeal to the body This is another very loved and certainly widely used and abused delusion. It works by stating that everything that is claimed is true because the so-called body said so, rather than applying any logical reasoning or providing any evidence to support the claim. For example: Raising interest rates by 3% should be in the interests of the economy, because the Prime Minister said this yesterday at 9 o'clock news. 3. Straw man with this delusion, you argue against the phonetic, weak or funny position you have created and then proceed to easily knock him down. For example: Tree hugging ecologists is so dumb they think plants have feelings and are more important than humans. Basically, every time you see one of those ever-so-funny comedy parodies on Gootube making fun of someone because they (please take your choice here) are vegan, meat eaters, millennials, GenX, silver surfers, gun owners, pacifists, spiritual, spiritual, love is technologies, hate technologies, etc., now you know how their little trick works and what it's called! 4. Appeal to ignorance This delusion works by using the premise that because we do not know (or cannot prove) to prove that it must be true or false. What if you think about it is totally ridiculous, as not knowing something is proof of anything, well, except you know nothing! Here are some simple examples: We don't have strong evidence that fairies exist. Which should mean that they are so incredibly magical that they can make themselves completely invisible to humans. Or sometimes you may even see some appeal to the ignorance of nonsense dressed as this as a serious product endorsement: This supplement is absolutely amazing because no one who has taken it so far has become sick! P.S. Disclaimer, I have no idea if the fairies exist or not - but think it would be kinda cool if they did! 5. False Dilemma It is also sometimes known as false dichotomy, black-and-white delusion, or even B-Furcastia delusion. Here's how it works: Essentially you reduce the argument to two options, even if there may be many more (and much better options) to choose from, such as: You're either with us or against us (note #1: This sucker even helped start a terrible war!) or you either love me or you hate me (note #2: Hang for a minute, how about words such as; like, fantasy, adoration or respect - or many other hundreds of views, opinions and emotions that you may have about another person????). 6. Slippery Slope aka Domino's Theory is a misleading work by taking an argument from a reasonable temperate place and moving it to an extreme place through one thing leading to another path, regardless of any logic or rational evidence to support the claim. Of course, like most misconceptions, you'll see it played out everywhere, but it's extremely common in homes with stropky teens who have reasonable, concerned parents. Usually arguments go something like: You just have to let me go to the psychedelic Goa trans music festival this weekend, if I don't go my friends will think I'm a completely square and complete loser, they'll dump me and I'll end up without life whatsoever, and will be forced to spend the rest of my life living like a sad hermit without a job, without money, without a love life, without a social life, and absolutely no future.... 7. Circular argument (Petitio Principii or begging issue), as well as circular argument, Petitio Principii and begging question it also has a fourth name, which; It's a vicious circle. This is called this for a very good reason, because it works by repeating what has just been said that, hey presto, creates a completely closed cycle aka circle! Here are some basic examples: Everyone wants to see a new Star Wars movie because it's the hottest movie going on at the moment.' or Psychic Force exist because I've witnessed what can only be described as an extraordinary psychic (Note #3: This misconception gained notoriety when it featured in the plot of a really good book called Catch 22. In it, the main character claims he is crazy to avoid flying dangerous bombardment missions. he believes his claim is rejected on the grounds that by claiming that he is insane it actually proves that he must be sane - once a sane person will try to claim that he was crazy to avoid flying deadly missions!). 8. Alphabet Soup This overuse of abbreviations, abbreviations and occult language bamboozle people, thinking that they know what they are saying and therefore should be right (and you are wrong and ignorant to download). Sadly saying the well-being industry is replete with this kind of hogwash often used to impress and confuse poor saps into taking a questionable course of treatment often for the great cost of their body and wallet - supposedly ☹️ example (please note that this is very much a made up one): It is very common that someone suffering from a shortage of DSW2 in their lymphatic C5X chromosome system will also show a 6% increase in IOK17 growth. The obvious solution is to course XbandPharma FSX17 medications twice a day and 6 XbandPharma HFD tablets every three days in the morning with a glass of water. 9. The winning bandwagon of delusion works on the grounds that something is right, good, right, right or whatever other heck you want it to be just because most people think it is also. Named after the horse cart that politicians used to ride on shouting their dubious campaign promises and drawing attention to themselves so that people would give them their support and vote for them. If you were stupid enough to be one of them, you could literally jump on the bandwagon and enjoy being taken for a ride! Anyway, no surprises here, but this is a totally erroneous argument. Just because a lot of people can all agree with each other about something or another, it doesn't mean for one second they are all right. For example; Every year one billion people drink a diet, so it should be the best soft drink in the world. 10. Red Herring You may have heard of it. It's pretty famous, after all! But you can't recognize it in real life, as we mostly hear it mentioned in whodunnit TV crime shows. So how does it work? Well, red herring is a clever irrelevant argument that distracts you from the real topic carefully. Apparently named after the smelly fish used in training hunting dogs, it is most commonly used by cunning individuals who want to have a conversation (read; argument) from an area that they are vulnerable to in one that they feel safer territory. As you can quite imagine guilty politicians absolutely love red herring and will use it in almost every answer that they can get away with, for example: Why are we raising taxes? Ok... Hmm... we need to increase taxes in order to receive more income to support existing primary school commitments Children represent the future of the country, don't they? Therefore, we absolutely must always support them 100%. Don't you agree? 11. Political correctness (special bonus bonus Finally, and a little special extra bonus, PC argument (aka Language Control). We are all for equality and justice, but please be with us on this. This post-modern piece of autumnal sophistry used to be a different name. Ironically it was once simply known as a name call misleading. How it works, you change the nature of something by giving it a different name. You must have seen these things on the news or in the newspapers all the time. To paraphrase the great George Carlin; People are no longer poor but economically disadvantaged, they are not broke, but have a temporary negative cash flow situation, and of course they no longer live in slums, but in an economically depressed urban environment. Naturally, the world of trade and industry is its masters as well as governments. Have you noticed how bad debt is now an indefatigable asset, and that organizations love to give employees up titles rather than fee rises? There is also another way that PC logic (often the complete opposite of actual correctness) can be used very effectively. Instead of just calling things off, words can also be weaponised, turning them into control words that can be used effectively, especially with name strategies. They are usually used to close debates, suppress critical thinking and drive the target down carefully constructed mental pathways (and safely away from the issues discussed). Of course, as mentioned at the beginning, there are hundreds of other logical misconceptions such as hasty generalizations, erroneous sunk costs, false analogy, special reasoning and even misleading misconceptions to name just a few more. What do you think of the ones that are presented here? Have you been caught on a logical misconception lately? Maybe you have a favorite misconception you'd like to share? Let us know in the comments. Affordable online courses for freelancers, small businesses and entrepreneurs

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