36 PHI 2100 - #53520  LOGIC
Wed. 11.21.07  // 16 Students (2pts bonus)

§3.4 - INFORMAL FALLACIES

3 CATEGORIES.

A PSEUDOCOMMISSION

15. Begging the Question (Petitio principii) (p. 143)
   Conclusion is somehow contained in the premises.

16. Complex Question (p. 148)
   “Do you still beat your wife?”

17. False Dichotomy (p. 149)
   “More than 2 possibilities.

18. Suppressed Evidence (p. 150) Read It’s not on Test.

* B AMBIGUITY

19. Equivocation - A term used 2 different ways (p. 152)

20. Ambiguity - Mispinterprets an ambiguous statement (p. 153)

C GRAMMATICAL ANALOGY

21. Composition
   Putting together (p. 154)

22. Division
   Taking apart (p. 156)

Note: Summary of ALL 22 on p. 158.

Examples: p 159 - See Next Page →

EXERCISE 3.4

1. Identify the falls of presumption, ambiguity, and grammatical analogy committed by the following arguments, giving a brief explanation for your answer. If no fallacy is committed, write "no fallacy." 

a. Either we require forced sterilization of Third World peoples or world population will explode and all of us will die. We certainly don't want to die, so we must require forced sterilization.
   1. [No fallacy, as the argument is a valid disjunction]

b. Every sentence in this paragraph is well written. Therefore, the paragraph is well written.
   2. [Equivocation on the word well]

2. An athlete is a human being, therefore, a good athlete is a good human being.
   3. [No fallacy, as the argument is valid]

James said that he saw a picture of a beautiful girl stashed in Stephen's locker.
   4. [No fallacy, as the argument is valid]

We can only conclude that Stephen has broken the rules, because girls are not allowed in the locker room.
   5. [No fallacy, as the argument is valid]

Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen. Therefore, hydrogen and oxygen will quench one's thirst.
   6. [No fallacy, as the argument is valid]

People who lack humility have no sense of beauty because everyone who has a sense of beauty also has humility.
   7. [No fallacy, as the argument is valid]

8. Bacteria is combustible. Therefore, it burns.
   8. [No fallacy, as the argument is valid]