Unit 2 (Rhetoric)
Vocab
Logical Fallacies
Logical Fallacies

arguments that have an error within their reasoning and fail to make a comprehensible argument
presumption

an idea that is taken to be true, and often used as the basis for other ideas, although it is not known for certain
ad hominem

when someone tries to refute an argument by attacking the author
death by a thousand qualifications fallacy

making a statement that is technically true but that has so many qualifiers that it is insignificant
fallacy of composition

arguing that because each member of a group has a certain property, the group itself necessarily has that property
begging the question

when the author assumes the statement under examination to be true; use of circular reasoning as evidence for an argument
appeal to authority
citing people who lack relevant qualifications or whose qualification(s) are in fields irrelevant to the argument
fallacy of equivocation

an argument that relies on a term’s different meanings in different contexts and implicitly alternates between two or more
non sequitur

does not follow from the statements that lead to it; Latin: “it does not follow”
distorting the facts; fallacy of omission

intentionally or unintentionally withholding information, usually to the benefit of the one withholding
oversimplification

exaggerating the truth; not using suitable qualifiers in formulating one’s argument
the genetic fallacy

A claim is accepted or rejected based on the source of the evidence, rather than the quality or applicability of the evidence.
red herring

an irrelevant topic presented to divert attention from the original issue
Poisoning the well

associating negative, often hateful emotions with the person or source of the argument
appeal to ignorance
allacy that occurs when the truth of a claim is based on the fact that it has not yet been proven false or true
appeal to fear

logical fallacy that occurs when a debater tries to scare people away from an opinion
argue]

t two events occurred in succession, the former event necessarily caused the latter; Latin: “after this, therefore, because of this”
fallacy of division

applying something that is true for the whole as necessarily true of all or some of its parts
fallacy of many questions

a question that presupposes things that have not yet been proven or accepted by everyone involved
protecting the hypothesis

manipulating and mischaracterizing data and information to prove your claim
false dichotomy

presenting two options as if they are the only options; either/or fallacy
hasty generalization

a conclusion that is based on too small, narrow, and unrepresentative a sample
slippery slope fallacy

making an argument against something based on a possible, but unproven, series of often undesirable events that ignores possible mitigating factors
false analogy

fallacy

applying facts from one situation to another when the situations are substantially different and therefore the same conclusions cannot be logically drawn.
tu quoque

a form of ad hominem fallacy that occurs when it is assumed the argument is wrong because the source has spoken or acted in a way inconsistent with it
special pleading

asking for an exception to a rule to be applied to a specific case without proper justification of why that case deserves an exemption
straw man fallacy

when a debater intentionally misrepresents their opponent’s argument as a weaker version to more easily refute it