

Propaganda

Section F – Techniques of Maneuver

1. Diversion: This is a technique where the speaker tries to get the other person off track by changing the subject. He tries to divert the person's attention. **BE CAREFUL: If the speaker tries to get the person off track but fails, it's no technique.**

Example: "Samuel, what did you get on your English test today?"
"Mom, what do you think of my new bellbottoms?"
"They're very nice, dear."

Example: "John, Why are you home so late?"
"Dad, did you hear about the terrific play at the football game?"
"Tell me about it, son."

Explanation: In both examples, the speaker is able to change the subject and avoid answering the original question.

2. Disproving a Minor Point: The speaker tries to win an argument by using a minor piece of evidence. This is when you have two or more points to make in an argument and the speaker uses one of the weaker points to prove himself correct.

Example: "I'm sorry but I can't hire you as a driver for our company. It seems you've had three accidents in the last five months, and have been given two tickets for speeding and one for careless operation of a vehicle."

"Aw, that's not true at all! I only had two accidents and I can prove it. Your information is wrong. Won't you reconsider?"

Example: "Eddie, I don't believe this! You've gotten 20 F's in your last 4 report cards and you want to borrow the car for tonight!"

"Aw, mom, that's not true. I've only gotten 19. Please let me have the car."

Explanation: Both examples show the speaker trying to win an argument by picking out a small, insignificant error to prove his point.

3. Ad Hominem: A speaker makes a personal attack against another individual instead of attacking the issue(s) presented by that individual.

Example: Busby wants the city to purchase more land for recreation. I want to know why his brother is down the hall offering several lots of land for sale.

Example: *Smith:* "This town needs more efficient and vigorous police protection. Some on the police force should be retired and some should be fired."

Jones: "Absolutely not. And who are you to talk about improving our police protection? As I recall, thirty years ago you did time for forgery."

Explanation: Instead of attacking the problem being discussed, the speaker attacks the person, his character or his private life.

4. Appeal to Ignorance: The speaker makes something out to be true simply because it can't be proven false.

Example: I believe that as soon as you fly past Pluto, you enter a time warp in which you will be transported to the beginning of time. You can't prove me wrong either!"

Example: "My mother saw a ghost the other day.
"Don't be silly. There's no such thing as ghosts!"
"How do you know? Have you got all the evidence?"

Explanation: The speakers assume that simply because the audience cannot prove them wrong, their ideas must be true.

5. Leading Question: The speaker presents a question in a way to get a specific answer. The question suggests or "leads" to a desired response.

Example: Courtroom trial of Mr. Arthur Harris for the murder of his wife Mary:
"So, Mr. Harris, was the air-conditioning on when you killed your wife?"

Example: It was early on Monday that you decided to steal jewelry, wasn't it?

Explanation: Both questions suggest an answer or incriminate the answer by the way the question is asked. They are questions that require a 'yes' or 'no' reply.

6. Complex Questions: The speaker uses a series of questions to get a response.

Example: "Didn't you trip, carrying the safe down the step? Didn't it hit poor, 95 year old Mrs. Wilson? Didn't she suffer a severe concussion from that injury? Didn't you hate Mrs. Wilson? Didn't you do that on purpose? Answer me 'yes' or 'no'."

Example: Did you bring the pop? Did you bring the blanket? Did you bring the ketchup and mustard? Is the food in the trunk? Do you really want to go on this picnic?

Explanation: Although all of the questions may seem like leading questions, because they are a string of questions, they are complex questions. The speaker doesn't necessarily want a response to each question. They only want one 'yes' or 'no' for the entire series of questions.

7. Inconsequent Argument: The speaker will use some fact or statistic to prove his point. The propaganda lies in the fact that the information presented is totally irrelevant.

Example: Why shouldn't we get a dog? Everybody on our street has one!

Example: By looking into the police records we have established that the defendant has been convicted twice before of petty larceny. If this doesn't suggest that he is the robber of the First national Bank, I don't know what does.

8. Attacking the Straw Man: The speaker tries to stick words in the other person's mouth. He tries to get too much from a statement.

Example: A: "I think capital punishment is a good way to deal with crime."
B: "I can't stand people who have no compassion! You're terrible!"

Example: A: "I like to go and spend a summer day at the beach picnicking every weekend."
B: "You must be one of the polluters which don't care a hoot about the environment."

Explanation: Both 'B' speakers changed what the 'A' speaker had to say. They assumed far more than what was actually said.

9. Victory by Definition: This is the favorite technique of the "know-it-alls." This person is never proven wrong because he keeps changing his statement around to win the discussion.

Example: A: "No member of the democratic party will vote against the ERA."
B: "Smith and Jones said they're against it and they're democrats."
A: "I mean REAL democrats."

Example: A: "Communism cannot help but work."
B: "I disagree, look at China; things are in a mess over there."
A: "Oh, sure but that's not real communism. I'm talking about pure communism."

Explanation: Even though both speakers are given valid proof that their statement

is not true, they refuse to accept the evidence.

10. Begging the Question: This speaker tries to maneuver the listener by reasoning in circles. The evidence that is supposed to prove the speaker's point is nothing more than a fancy restatement of the same thing.

Example: Dr. A: "How can you be sure that's a cancerous growth?"
Dr. B: "Simple. All that we have to do is look at the infected tissue lining the stomach."
Dr. A: "How do you know the tissue infected?"

Section F

Maneuvers will Mess with You.

Techniques of Maneuver

1. Diversion

You get the other person off the subject.

2. Disproving a Minor Point

A speaker gives two or more reasons for what he thinks. You knock out one of them. Then you claim you have killed his entire argument.

3. Ad Hominem

You attack the other person as an individual rather than answering what he said.

4. Appeal to Ignorance

What I say is true because you can't prove it isn't. Or what you say is false because you can't prove it's true.

5. Leading Question

You ask a question which suggests its own answer. Or the question puts the other person on the spot. No matter what he answers, he is cooked.

6. Complex Question

You ask a series of questions and then demand one "yes" or "no" blanket answer to all of them.

7. Inconsequent Argument

You prove something but not what you think you proved.

8. Attacking a Straw Man

You take what the other person says and twist it to make it stupid.

9. Victory by Definition

I rig what I say so that, no matter what anyone else says against me, I can say that's not what I meant.

10. Begging the Question

You argue in a circle. Statement A is true because of B. But B is true because of A.

Watch out for '0' or *No Technique*. If the argument is logical or is identified as an opinion then 0 (No Technique) is the correct answer.

Propaganda Examples – Section F Grouped by Technique

0. No Technique

1. Do you ever donate to the Salvation Army? If so, our annual spring collection drive has just begun. (Not Leading Question)
2. According to our judicial system, if a defendant is not proven guilty, he or she is presumed innocent. (Not Begging the Question)
3. On the last four jobs that Turgid has had, he has failed to report to work on the average of 50% of the time. Unless he can show some reason for his excessive absences, I recommend that we not hire him. (Not Ad Hominem)
4. Do you want to help a good cause? If so, consider donating to the United Fund. (Not Leading Question)
5. “How would you like a treat – some delicious yogurt at TCBY?” said Mollie to her husband after they had finished the evening dishes. (Not Leading Question)
6. Defense attorney giving closing statement to the jury: “The prosecution’s main witness is a drug addict who made a deal with the district attorney to testify against my client in order to avoid going to prison. Anything that witness said should be taken with a grain of salt.” (Not Ad Hominem)
7. Dad: “I just want a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no,’ young lady. Have you finished your homework yet?” (Not Complex Question)
8. Yes, I know that Margaret has made us a lot of money over the years with her ideas and extra work. But we now know that she has revealed some of our secrets to our competitors, and she is selling alcohol to minors on the side out of her home. We need to let her go. (Not Ad Hominem)
9. Have you five dollars to lend me? (Not Leading Question)
10. Reporter to the CIA Director: “It sounds like you have a pretty good idea of where Osama Bin Laden is. Where is he?”
CIA Director: “I have an excellent idea of where he is. What’s the next question?” (Not Diversion)
11. Gentlemen, there is no doubt that Miss Davis is an incompetent teacher. She is an admitted Communist and has led campus insurrections. We should bar her from teaching here. (Not Ad Hominem)

Propaganda Examples – Section F Grouped by Technique

1. Diversion

1. Mom to Son: "I can't believe it. You're late again. Can't you ever get home on time? Dinner's cold already."
Son to Mom: "But I was hurrying. I met Mrs. Bump. She is expecting her fifth child."
Mom to Son: "No, no. Mrs. Bump already has five kids. Is she pregnant again?"
2. Joe: "I think Al Copeland should not put up such an elaborate Christmas display because of all the traffic and congestion it causes in his neighborhood. This is both a hazard and a source of irritation to his neighbors."
Schmoe: "I disagree. This phenomenon is just an expression of the Mardi Gras spirit that is so special to this city. New Orleanians love nothing better than a big street party."
3. Klar: "I think that Bent State is a good school to prepare one for the future."
Dietz: "I disagree. I hear so many negative things about Bent. I don't see how it could possibly be any good."
Klar: "Well, with the help of my high school background, Bent has prepared me very well in my field of interest."
Dietz: "Yes, your high school was good. I remember visiting it once. It was a beautiful school, very well-equipped."
Klar: "If I remember correctly, your high school was also excellent."
4. Debate Moderator: "The issue before us is whether the United States should adopt universal military training."
General: "I think we should. We will not have time to train an army in the next war."
Pacifist: "I think war is a crime against humanity. Think of the educational system we could build if we had no war debt."
5. He: "You ought to quit smoking."
She: "You ought to quit drinking."
He: "I only drink on weekends."
6. It is said of Clarence Darrow, the famous criminal lawyer, that he had a case where he knew his client was guilty. Darrow came to court smoking a long cigar. When asked if he wished to cross-examine any of the prosecution's witnesses, he would say, "No," and go on smoking. Meanwhile the ash got longer and longer. Everybody on the jury was watching to see when that ash would fall off instead of listening to the prosecution's witnesses. Darrow did not introduce a shred of evidence for his client, and the jury found him "Not guilty." What Darrow had done was to push a wire through the length of the cigar. It will hold an ash indefinitely.
7. Alice: "We must continue with our diet plan. Our class reunion is only one month away. C'mon, Ralph, help me prepare this food."
Ralph: "That reminds me. I had better order the plane tickets this evening. Do you want to fly first class or coach?"
Alice: "I thought we were going to drive."
8. Renee: "Come on, Ben, let's get to the library to study for our test tomorrow before we take off for the basketball game."
Ben: "Basketball game? I thought we were going to the dance tonight. I don't want to go to any ballgame."
Renee: "Gee whiz, Ben, you promised to take me to the ball game. This is the big

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playoff and everything.”

9. From a political debate: “My opponent asks about my record on crime. I’d like to ask her about her record on taxation. On the city council, she voted three times to raise taxes.”
10. Was I aware that I signed a binding contract in Chicago last June? You know, I think that we discussed that contract in Atlanta, not Chicago. Wasn’t that the weekend we went to the Braves game on Saturday night?
11. Senator: “The president owes it to the nation to answer honestly and completely the questions many have about his past business dealings.”
Interviewer: “Senator, why haven’t you made public the full testimony from the Senate Ethics Committee’s hearing into your own business dealings?”
12. Ruthie: “Honey, we need to work hard to get in shape for the skiing trip next month.”
Ken: “No, Ruth, we go on the skiing trip in six weeks. Next month is diving.”
Ruthie: “Oh, yeah! That reminds me, I need to check on that new dive mask I ordered.”
13. She: “Honey, I tried Maggie’s new irons today on the golf course. Those clubs are wonderful! I broke 80 with them! If you buy me a set just like those for Christmas, you would make me very happy.”
He: “You broke 80? Boy, that’s great. I remember the first time I broke 80. What a great round that was! If it had not been for that double bogey on 18, I would have broken 75.”
14. Teacher: “Charles, where is your homework?”
Charles: “Oh, I left it at home. But I did bring my shrunken head from Brazil. The Jivaro Indians, who live in the Amazon jungle, shrink the heads of intruders they shoot with poisoned darts from their blowguns.”
Teacher: “That’s right. And did you know that the poison used on the darts is called *curare*?”
15. Student: “But Mrs. Wilson, you promised that if we finished our homework before the volleyball game today that you would let us out to see the game.”
Mrs. Wilson: “Volleyball? I can’t wait to get to the big football game tonight. Our guys are gonna win the city championship.”
Student: “Are you kidding? Our guys don’t have a chance. They will be killed.”
16. What do you mean, we should not buy that new boat? Of course we should. But let’s not get into that now. I was planning on taking you out to that new restaurant over on 25th Street. Want to go?
17. Husband to wife: “I think we should take our vacation to Disney World this summer. Of course, the last time we went there, we spent the week in the hotel because of constant rain. That was back in ‘98 – or was it ‘97? My memory’s going bad. I can’t remember what I had for breakfast this morning. What are we having for supper tonight?”
18. Mrs. Jones to her class: “I’m thinking about having our next test Friday.”
Student: “Mrs. Jones, did you go to the game last night?”
Mrs. Jones: “Yes, I did and it was a great game. Were you there?”
19. What do you mean a shortfall in my sales this month? Why, I was doing fine until

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that weekend golfing trip we took. By the way, you were great that weekend. Shot a 77 the first day and a 75 the next day, didn't you? No? It was a 74! I still can't believe how good you were. We should plan another outing in a couple of weeks. OK?

20. Wife: "Honey, how did work go today? Did you ask your boss about a raise?"
Husband: "Oh! Speaking of work, as I drove to work this morning I saw your sister Maggie driving a new Volvo convertible."
Wife: "I wonder where she got the money for that. She really doesn't make that much at her job."
21. Son: "Mom, may I have a cookie?"
Mother: "No, it will spoil your dinner."
Son: "So where are we going for dinner tonight?"
Mother: "I found this really neat home-style steak and ribs place that you and your father will love."
Son, munching on a cookie: "Yum, that sounds great!"
22. Mother: "Johnny, your report card came today in the mail. We need to have a little talk about your grades."
Johnny: "I know, mom, but you'll never believe what happened today at school. There was a huge fight in the courtyard, and the police had to come."
Mother: "Oh my goodness, was anyone hurt?"
Johnny: "One guy got a black eye and another one got a broken nose, but no major injuries."
Mother: "I'm so relieved! Schools are becoming a very scary place nowadays!"
23. A wife said to her husband as he got home from work, "We have a major crisis with our son Billy. We have to take care of this immediately." The husband replied, "Honey, you look gorgeous tonight. Would you like me to take you out to eat at the new restaurant?"
24. Question in an online chat with Laura Bush during the 2004 Presidential Campaign: "Mrs. Bush, would you ever consider debating Mrs. Kerry? The public is eager to hear the two of you discuss this election's key issues."
Laura Bush: "I think the only debating we'll be doing is over who bakes a better cookie! *Family Circle* magazine is running a contest to see who has the best cookie recipe. Go to the *Family Circle* website to vote for my Oatmeal Chocolate Chunk Cookies. They are the President's favorite!"

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2. Disproving a Minor Point

1. Smith: "International test results show that the United States is falling behind countries like Japan, West Germany, and Russia in math and science education."
Jones: "Professor Gallagher has shown that the figures for Russia can't be trusted. The United States isn't doing so badly after all."
2. Ivan: "Communism cannot help but work. It provides incentives for workers, it allows everyone to reap the benefits of their shared labors, and it treats all men as equals."
Gregor: "I disagree. The farmers in the eastern sector received more wheat per family than those in the western sector last spring. Therefore we northern farmers will continue with our free enterprise system of government."
3. A: "Reelect Alvin for Governor. His economic reforms have saved the state millions of dollars, education reform has made teachers accountable, and he promised me the job of Public Administrator if reelected."
B: "The promise of you getting a political job is no reason for me to waste my vote on Alvin."
4. Smith: "New Orleans showed when it hosted the Republican Convention that it isn't really one of the top cities in the country. Delegates complained about their hotel rooms, many were robbed, the cab drivers were rude, prices were too high, and the sound system in the Superdome was a disaster."
Jones: "The sound system in the Superdome was brought in by the Republicans. If they had used the Dome's regular system, they wouldn't have had a problem. No, New Orleans is big league all the way."
5. Letter to a news magazine: "Your article on the environment stated that the National Audubon Society spearheaded the effort to defeat the building of a new dam on the Long River. However, it was the Smith Foundation that spent the most money in that effort. Your reporter's conclusion that the defeat of the dam will harm the state's economy is faulty."
6. Editorial: "Professor Quaysar claims he wants to improve Outerspace Elementary School by adding more qualified teachers, buying new textbooks, adding an exercise room, and improving physics test scores. He can't improve the school this way. As we all know, physics is not taught at the elementary school level."
7. Beau: "The Republicans don't have a chance. Their organization is weak; their stand on taxes is not fiscally sound; they threaten millions of voters who are beneficiaries of social welfare programs; and their candidate has a mushy personality."
Maude: "What do you mean their candidate has a mushy personality? He is beloved by all Americans. They all respect his firm character. The Republicans are going to win."
8. Father: "Son, you may not go out tonight because your room is not clean, your chores haven't been done, and your homework is not completed."
Son: "Dad, I can't put out the trash until Mom finishes cleaning the kitchen."
9. Mother to child: "There are several good reasons why you should eat vegetables. Vegetables have a lot of vitamins; they are a good source of fiber; and they taste good."
Child: "That's not true, Mom. Spinach never tastes good."

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10. Teacher: “Jeff, if you want to improve your conduct grade, you need to do the following things: Stop getting into fights with other boys; stop taking things out of other students’ desks; and stop ignoring me every time I tell you to pay attention.”
Jeff: “But Mrs. Snerdly, I always pay attention every time you say get ready to go to lunch.”
11. Let me get this straight. You say that the bank may raise our loan rate, and the town may refuse to grant us the right of way, and the neighbors are going to get upset by the size of our addition. Well, then, it is settled. I couldn’t care less about those neighbors of ours who have been noisy and irritating for the last five years.
12. Mrs. Brown: “Kelly, I know that you stole three of my personal books from my classroom. I have two student witnesses who saw you leaving my room with the books. I found the books in your locker. I also received a note from Mr. Jenkins that you were very late to your 5th period class. That was one of only two periods my room was vacant.”
Kelly: “Mrs. Brown, your information is all wrong. I couldn’t have stolen those books. During period 5, I was in the dean of students’ office getting detention for a fight I was involved in at lunch.”
13. Jenny said, “That movie was awesome. The special effects were spectacular. The star was really handsome and it was impossible to figure out the ending until it happened.”
Rita replied, “What, you think that star was handsome? He was just average. I’m not recommending that movie to anyone.”
14. The president claims that he is going to reduce taxes, increase funding for Social Security, and provide a means for stopping the war in the Middle East. How can you believe a word he says when he has been promising to put an end to the war for the past year? He has claimed to “be working” on stopping the war, but have we seen any action? Of course not. He is simply blowing smoke!
15. Owner of a small business: “Gus, it has come to my attention that you’ve been stealing a few dollars from the cash register each day. You’ve also been leaving early every day and insulting many customers. You’re fired and I don’t want to see you in this store again.”
Gus: “You’re wrong. I shouldn’t be fired. I didn’t insult that many customers.”
16. Mother: “In order to go out tonight with your friends, you have to clean your room, take out the garbage, and walk the dog.”
Daughter: “But, mom, I’ve already washed the dishes. Isn’t that enough?”

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3. Ad Hominem

1. Mrs. Felton is President of the PTA and you want me to believe her arguments for giving the PTA a large share in running the school? She's the last one I would believe.
2. The mayor is asked about charges directed against his newly-appointed Chief of Police – that the Chief, in the city where he served before, accepted bribes as protection money from a Mafia-run abortion clinic. The mayor said that he planned no action against the Chief on the basis of a story that had no more substantiation than “the word of a dope addict, a frightened man, an ex-alcoholic, under indictment for failure to file income tax returns, out of work, in debt, and separated from his wife and family.”
3. Sure you think we should build a new bridge across the river. After all, you own 2000 acres of land on the other side of the river.
4. Smith says he will represent us well in the Senate. This comes from a man whose father was a known gangster, whose mother was an alcoholic, and who was expelled from his first high school.
5. It is easy to see why General Motors is in favor of laws which would limit the number of cars imported each year.
6. Steve Forbes says that he will represent us well as a fiscally conservative governor. This comes from the same man that was an avowed liberal during all his early political years. Why, he'll just give away all our tax dollars.
7. Maxwell won't help our kids keep away from drugs. He's a known drunk and has been in jail twice on drug charges. Besides, look at how he dresses. He is disgusting.
8. Of course, Deavers won't support the right-to-work bill. What do you expect from a person who has underworld connections and a history of swindles?
9. Oh really? Who are you to talk about parental guidance? You're a heavy smoker. A fine example you set for your children!
10. When Diana tried to explain to her younger brother why he should be a careful driver, he answered, “You shouldn't talk. After all, who was it that hit the danger sign, scraped the fender as she pulled into a parking space, and hit the fire hydrant, all within three hours?”
11. Of course your attorney advised you to sue. If you do, he'll receive a hefty fee!
12. When Bobby Knight, Indiana University basketball coach, was fined \$30,000 for using foul language in a press conference after a game, he said that the committee had no business reprimanding him because seven of the nine members of the committee had themselves been reprimanded in the past.
13. The conclusions of the philosopher Spinoza are invalid for, as everyone knows, he was expelled from the Synagogue.
14. The news about the professional football players using drugs was aired on the lowest-rated station in the city. They're just trying to improve their ratings with these ridiculous charges.
15. Our principal just cut the budget for academic games at our school. Is it a coincid-

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ence that his son was kicked off the team earlier this year? I think not.

16. State representative replying to charges from a local TV station: “Of course, Channel 4 News is broadcasting negative reports about me. Sam Smith, the chief reporter for Channel 4, has been out to get me for years.”
17. Government official in the new Russia: “Every time that we try to make a decision about what is good for our people, we are disrupted by those left-thinking young radicals from the New Peoples Party.”
18. When the polls showed a majority of the voters favored the death penalty, my opponent suddenly favored the death penalty also. He’ll take any position he thinks will win votes.
19. Carl Rogers surely is persuasive about the plans for the new recreational park here in our town. But wasn’t Carl the same guy who recently chased his wife away in a bitter divorce? And wasn’t he also involved in that shaky investment with the State Department?
20. Mrs. X: “Children, too many of you are coming to class late. It is very important to be on time.”
Student: “But Mrs. X, I heard the principal telling you that you were never on time for faculty meetings; so why should it matter if we are late?”
21. Nevins is a southern historian, so if I were you I wouldn’t put much faith in his account of Confederate victories.
22. Bill Clinton has offered suggestions on solving the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. But why should we listen to a man who left the White House in disgrace after being impeached and lying to the Special Prosecutor?
23. McGarrity’s plan for expanding our community seems brilliant. But he has always been a shady character. He hangs out with thugs. No way I can support his plan.
24. Serena says that we must save money in all aspects of our business. However, how can she possibly expect us to listen when she is the worst one at using the company credit card for non-company matters?
25. I don’t see how anyone could vote for Margaret for 7th grade class president. How can anyone who was accused of cheating on a 5th grade math test honestly fulfill the requirements of a class officer?
26. Anyone who would dare to criticize the president in this time of war is unpatriotic. If you don’t like it here, leave.
27. My opponent claims that he supports a unified and complete family, which is surely needed in today’s society. However, he himself has been divorced twice and rarely spends time with his four children.
28. Smith: “The biggest problem with computerized voting systems is that they are not transparent. We need a paper trail to back up the counts that the machines give.”
Jones: “You’re just a paranoid conspiracy theorist!”
29. A: “My car is making strange noises. I think I’ll take it to a mechanic.”
B: “What? An auto mechanic is the last person to take your car to. He only makes money if he tells you there’s something wrong with it.”
30. Senator Grant: “Senator Patterson is leading a portion of the Senate that has

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threatened to change the filibuster rules so that a smaller majority of Senators can end a filibuster and control the voting for presidential nominations. He must really be power crazed and afraid to compromise.”

31. You don't expect me to support giving our most significant account to Sally. She has been cheating on her husband for the last six months.

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4. Appeal to Ignorance

1. I have proposed that the university go on record as opposing the war in Vietnam and in all your talking I have yet to hear from you any reason at all why the university shouldn't do so.
2. I say they're in love. Isn't it evident? How else can you explain their actions?
3. There is no evidence that spirits exist. So we can only conclude that something else is causing noises in this old house.
4. Not a single person has come forward who actually saw Frank steal the lunch money. How can anyone possibly conclude he is guilty?
5. I believe the President's explanation of this Iran affair. The Senate investigators have not found any evidence to contradict his explanation.
6. No breath of scandal has ever touched the Senator. He must, therefore, be incorruptibly honest.
7. Not a single person has come forward who actually ate at Frank's Place. How can anyone conclude that the food is terrific?
8. Presidential candidate Pat Robertson maintained that he couldn't prove that there weren't Soviet missile sites in Cuba and therefore there might be.
9. Since we have thus far been unable to discover any limit to the universe, we must conclude that space is infinite.
10. Why should I switch to another phone company? You can't show me that I'd get any real savings on my long-distance calls.
11. Magic Johnson should keep on playing. No one has proved that he can transmit AIDs by playing basketball.
12. Citizen to School Board member: "We really need this new school in our community. Our old school is already full. The way we're growing, we will be like sardines in just three years."
School Board member: "You can't know for sure that people are going to keep moving into this area. I feel that we should wait. I vote no."
13. No breath of scandal has ever touched the Senator. He must, therefore, be incorruptibly honest.
14. My faith in Jesus Christ is strong. You cannot show me that Allah has provided salvation for as many people as Jesus has.
15. Of course Clinton will win the election. When was the last time you saw a candidate with his type of charisma and understanding of the economy get whipped in a national election? You can't show me even one time that it has happened before.
16. It is obvious to any thinking adult that Aid to Dependent Mothers is the right thing to do. Try to assure me that these poor children would be cared for safely without this aid. You know you can't.
17. I've never seen a bird that couldn't fly. That's how I know that all birds can fly.
18. Scientists claim that in 25 years we will have an inventory of every organism and animal in the world. This cannot possibly be right. You can never prove that you've found every last living thing on the planet.

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19. Of course my Dad's motorcycle is the fastest one made in the country. Can you show me a faster one? Huh? C'mon! See! I knew that you couldn't! That settles it.
20. I believe beings from outer space have visited the Earth. The U.S. Air Force has studied the situation for 40 years and has not come up with conclusive proof against alien visitors.
21. Reporter interviewing the author of a book against the death penalty:
Reporter: "You write that we execute innocent people 'all the time.'"
Author: "Well, everything points to it. Can someone say with certainty that we have not executed an innocent person?"
22. Of course, our Badgers will win the Regional Championship Game. You cannot show me how the Coyotes are going to handle our pressing defense and our big men. We will overwhelm them.
23. The National Hurricane Network claims that this year will be even worse than last year. We are expected to have more than 12 named storms, 5 of them severe. I don't believe a word they say. I mean, how are they to know what the future holds? We cannot possibly claim to truly know what this hurricane season will be like. We'll just have to wait and see.
24. If Ronaldo had not been hurt, Brazil would certainly have won the soccer World Cup.

Propaganda Examples – Section F Grouped by Technique

5. Leading Question

1. You were across the yellow line, weren't you?
2. Tell me, professor, why do we have to go on with this inhuman grading system?
3. Come now, she isn't much of a student, is she, Professor Smaltz?
4. Ad: "For a lot of reasons, shouldn't your brand be Blue?"
5. Ad: "Acid Rain Bleach does the job best. Shouldn't your brand be Acid Rain?"
6. Does Peter still burp when he eats at the Burger Palace?
7. Why is it that you truck drivers always exceed the speed limit on our highways?
8. A copier ad: "Is your small copier being killed by popular demand?"
9. Health quiz: "Have you smoked anything other than marijuana in the last six months?"
10. Have you finally decided to take your doctor's advice and go on a fat-free diet?
11. Why is it that you feel you must keep up with Jones' lifestyle?
12. Could this man, this loving husband, this devoted father, this trusted employee, have committed this terrible crime? I ask you, could he?
13. After the football game, the coach was asked by a reporter, "Was it you or one of your assistant coaches who ordered your player to knock out the other team's quarterback by hitting him after the whistle?"
14. Teacher to student: "Why did you cheat on the examination?"
15. Student to teacher in a psychology class: "What is the explanation of mind reading?"
16. Political candidate addressing his opponent: "How long are we going to permit the Supreme Court to legislate for us on states rights?"
17. Is your body as fit on the inside as it is on the outside? Drink Evian Spring Water.
18. How do you get help for yourself when you are so busy helping others? Glenbow Health Sources.
19. Ad: "Are your PCs suffering in silence? Talk to Beame & Whiteside. We will show you four new ways to expand your PC-based connectivity."
20. Ad: "Is the LAN industry cheating its customers? You bet it is. With claims of being 'open' when they are really closed. But not UB company. We are truly open."
21. Ad: "Can you picture yourself in blue? The Blue Dart ocean cruiser will coddle you and pleasure you for an exciting week in the Caribbean."
22. Ad: "Would you like luxury *and* economy in an automobile? The new *Alistar* coupe gives you comfort and 30 miles per gallon."
23. Courtroom:
Lawyer: "Mr. Tyson, you are charged with assault for beating your girlfriend. Is this correct?"
Tyson: "Yes, sir."
Lawyer: "You claim you are not doing this?"
Tyson: "That is correct."
Lawyer: "When did you stop?"

**Propaganda Examples – Section F
Grouped by Technique**

24. Ad: "Don't you want the best for your kids? First American Life Assurance allows you to provide a secure future for your family even after you are gone."
25. Mom: "I saw the way you looked at my chocolate fudge cake. I saw your mouth water. You want a piece, don't you?"
26. TV commercial: "Wouldn't you really rather drive a Buick?"
27. Ad: "Can you picture yourself on the sunny sands of Kingston, Jamaica? Carnival Cruise Lines leaves weekly from Miami for seven heavenly days and nights in paradise."
28. Wife: "Dear, don't you think it would be fun to go to a movie tonight?"
Husband: "You know how I hate movies! Why do you always want to go to a movie?"
29. Prosecution attorney to the defendant on the witness stand in a murder trial: "Why did you kill your wife?"
30. Defense attorney questioning a witness in a trial: "You have admitted that you lied to police when you said you didn't know the defendant. Aren't you lying again when you say you saw him at the scene of the crime?"
31. Ad in high school newspaper: "Do you want to live life to the fullest? If so, you can't miss our senior trip to Cancun."
32. Telephone caller: "Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a one-year subscription to *Ninja News* at a special 25% discount rate. A free photo of the Turtles is yours just for saying yes. Will you be using a credit card?"
33. Lawyer addressing potential jurors: "I want to make sure that you will not give more weight to a police officer's testimony than to any other witness' testimony. Mr. Smith, you wouldn't give more weight to a police officer's testimony, would you?" (Mr. Smith says "no.") "Mrs. Jones, you wouldn't give more weight to a police officer?" (Mrs. Jones shakes her head "no.") "The rest of you, you won't give more weight to a police officer, right?" (The rest of the panel answers "no.")
34. Prosecutor to defendant: "Mr. Smith, what were you thinking when you murdered that helpless old man?"
35. Ad for a computer company: "Is the new century leaving your computer in the dust? Come by today for a quick and easy software upgrade."

**Propaganda Examples – Section F
Grouped by Technique**

6. Complex Question

1. Are you going to wear your diamond earrings tonight or may I borrow them?
2. Won't Federal aid to Nicaragua bring more jobs, higher salaries, and improved living conditions?
3. "After they finally caught you on Wednesday night, did you admit that you had sped through the town at over 100 mph, clipped two parked cars, robbed the local supermarket, and shot the security guard in the leg?" questioned the prosecuting attorney.
4. Disciplinarian to student: "Since I witnessed the entire fight, are you going to admit that you harassed your opponent, threw the first punch, and stabbed him before exiting the building?"
5. Ad: "Afraid of heights? Not fond of powdery orange drinks? Claustrophobic? Not interested in traveling in a space capsule to the moon? If your answer is yes, don't worry. At Spring Hill Suites, you get a room with all the space you'll need."
6. Ad: "Do you want gorgeous legs? Do you want legs that make every head turn? Do you want soft smooth legs without all the hassles of daily shaving? Then you want our 'No More Stubble Hair Remover.' It gives you the legs you only dreamed of."
7. Ad: "Feeling tired? Sluggish? Bloating? Having trouble losing weight? If the answer is 'yes,' then chances are your body is toxic. You need Puranol."
8. Do you wish you could bake like Martha Stewart, sew like your grandmother, and clean so well everything looks new again? If so, subscribe to *Housekeeping Made Simple*. Our new magazine will have you doing more than you've ever expected.
9. Mother to son: "Jake, wouldn't you really like to take a fun vacation to a nice mountain with a lake with cool water? A lake where you could fish and ride in a canoe. Wouldn't that be nicer than going to Florida where it's really hot?"
10. Ad: "Shouldn't you be thrilled by your job? Do you work only for a paycheck? Don't you want to make the most of your time at work? Read the *LifeWork Journal* to show you how to make your work better."
11. What if, down the road, an unexpected health challenge limited your independence, depleted your savings, and determined where and how you would live? You need ACTS, the leader in near-retirement Lifecare

Propaganda Examples – Section F Grouped by Technique

7. Inconsequent Argument

1. Smith: "The Americans are the most violent people in the world."
Jones: "That's quite a statement to make."
Smith: "I didn't make it without sufficient reason. Our homicide rate is the highest among civilized countries."
Jones: "I doubt that."
Smith: "Look at these statistics, then. The United States' rate is double that of France, and all the other countries have rates lower than France's."
Jones: "Well, I guess you're right; we are pretty violent."
2. Smith: "Someone has said that if students are not allowed to buy beer in Violet, they will then go by car to some other town, thus increasing traffic and traffic accidents. Can you meet that objection?"
Jones: "Certainly. That is the point. The facts are that a person of average size, consuming half a bottle of beer, suffers only a 5% loss in thinking ability."
3. I expect the Pattersons to buy a new car next year. They have bought a new car every third year for the last 15 years, and next year their Skylark will be three years old.
4. After interviewing several reliable sources, I have come to the conclusion that Jack has never been known to drink more than one beer. It had to be someone else who stole the six-pack.
5. The School Board met to rule on the teacher's competency. Her lawyer argued that Mrs. Brown had successfully completed four years of college and had never missed a day of school in 16 years. He asked for dismissal of the charges.
6. Mrs. Donaldson is going to have a baby in a few weeks. It will undoubtedly be a girl because all four of her children are girls.
7. Fellow Senators, the current Supreme Court nominee has no prior experience as a Federal Court Judge. That is reason enough to vote against his nomination.
8. Professor Mason is not at all a good teacher. Why, he doesn't even wear a coat and tie while teaching his summer school classes.
9. Parent to academic games moderator: "My son must have qualified for the national competition on the junior level. For the last three years, he has qualified for the national competition in the elementary and middle school divisions. He was also on the winning sweepstakes team. Would you please recheck your records?"
10. I know that the debate is hot in basketball circles about who was the better rebounder: Wilt Chamberlain of the 60s and 70s or Dennis Rodman of recent times. But the winner is clear to me. Wilt was a bad free throw shooter, but Dennis is plain awful. The nod goes to Wilt.
11. A bank teller was caught after stealing from his bank. When asked why he did it, he replied: "For years I have watched this bank unethically steal millions of dollars from the poor and the weak. I figured that it would do them justice if I stole a few thousands back from them."
12. I don't want him in my class. I had both his brothers in class in the past, and they were rude and obnoxious. They disrupted my lessons constantly. I won't accept him in my room.

Propaganda Examples – Section F
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13. The AAA vehicle insurance program costs twice as much when you add a teenage driver to the coverage. The National Mutual program costs even more than the AAA option. State Farm insurance isn't available in our state. We should choose the Southeast Auto Insurance program.
14. Why should I do my homework? My brother Doug never did his homework, and he turned out OK.
15. What? You say that their guards are way too quick and strong for us? That we cannot handle their press? Our center Adam Smith will dominate in the middle. He is too big and too talented for any forward or center that they have. We will beat them.
16. Secretary of Defense: "There is no doubt about it, we need the new missile defense system. The cost will be roughly \$35 billion."
Senator Brown: "Secretary Williams, why should we trust your decision that new weapons systems are needed? Once before we wasted billions of dollars on a missile defense system that didn't work!"
17. The murder victim was a highly-respected doctor who helped numerous patients with their problems. The accused killer has been arrested dozens of times for robbery, vagrancy, illegal possession of drugs, and even sale of drugs. Obviously a guilty verdict is called for here.

Propaganda Examples – Section F Grouped by Technique

8. Attacking a Straw Man

1. Jones: "I think that police using dogs and shot guns for riot control is good."
Smith: "Oh, so you think that being bit by a mad dog is good?"
2. In your editorial, you said, "To deny the Young Socialist Alliance a voice on campus would be to deny the viability of the democratic system." By this reasoning if a group of students sought recognition for a chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, or Murder Incorporated, to deny them a voice on campus would be to deny the democratic system.
3. Smith: "I favor Home Rule for this university, meaning that the students would choose the members of the Board of Trustees. Of course, the faculty should have a share in the choice, though not as large a share, since the number of faculty is much smaller than the number of students."
Jones: "How far out of touch with reality can one get? Smith would have the trustees chosen only by students, which means that those who are at the university precisely because they lack knowledge would choose those who are responsible for giving them knowledge."
4. Regan: "It is most important to build a strong defense at this time."
Brown: "My friend counsels a foolish course. Every young man and young woman in the uniform of the armed forces is his goal."
5. McKenzie wants to rent his second floor apartment to the Hardings, a Black family of four. He must want our neighborhood to become a ghetto in six months.
6. Max: "I think that the search of airline passengers is important for maintaining security on flights."
Tex: "Oh, so you want the government to come prying into everything you own. Personally I want a little protection from unlawful search."
7. Smith: "I think the President can be legitimately criticized for these arms deals with Iran."
Jones: "So you think our foreign policy should be run by Congress and the news media, do you?"
8. The Federal Judge ruled that the state's prisons were overcrowded to the point where the prisoners were undergoing "cruel and unusual punishment." The Governor responded by saying that the judge wants the state to "build the prisoners a luxury hotel to stay in."
9. Wife to husband: "The university is having a big Super Fair this weekend. Let's go!"
Husband to wife: "Oh sure, you want me to get sick on all those rides!"
10. Smith: "I'm voting for Ferguson. He'll be a strong leader both in domestic and foreign affairs."
Jones: "Oh, so you want as your president a man who sets killers free and who wants to gut the military strength of this country."
11. When the councilman proposed two laws limiting the number of t-shirt shops in the French Quarter, the opposition replied, "French Quarter USA will become French Quarter Cuba!"
12. Why are you bothering to vote? You must love the way these politicians are bilking the public while lining their own pockets.

Propaganda Examples – Section F Grouped by Technique

13. I don't believe you're proposing that we teach our students about the Red Chinese government! Why, it's people like you who are implanting malicious thoughts about the overthrow of the United States that make me question letting teachers make decisions.
14. Wife: "Marge and I are going to the Pompano Outlet Mall this afternoon. They have some super buys there."
Husband: "Right! There goes our monthly budget again – blown sky high!"
15. Son in college: "Dad, I would like to go to summer school, but I am about \$500 short of having enough money to spend the summer at school. Can you help?"
Father: "Yeah, that's just like you, always asking for a handout. Your spending ways are going to send me to the poorhouse!"
16. "What do you mean, 'Sew this button on your shirt!' Next you will want me to make you a pair of shorts and replace your kitchen curtains," cried the newlywed bride.
17. I'm not going to donate your old couch to the Baptist Church sale to help that family whose husband was killed in the car crash. If I let them know I care, they'll want 10% of my monthly salary.
18. Husband: "Honey, I'm going to play golf with the guys on Saturday."
Wife: "Not again! You prefer anyone else in the world to me."
19. Ambassador: "The people in the Sudan are starving. They need food and finances from the United States."
Senator: "You Africans are all the same. You want to bleed our economy until it is dry and we are all starving, too!"
20. Green: "I love to see these rich fields covered with growing corn and barley."
Brown: "So you think it's OK for farmers to pollute our water with fertilizer?"
21. Ferd: "You know, it's a good idea to use policemen on horses to control crowds during holiday parades."
Nerd: "I can't see where being trampled and kicked by big horses is a good idea."
22. City council member in a closed meeting of the council: "I insist that we release to the public the complete records of the investigation into police brutality."
Another council member: "Then you will be responsible for the riot that takes place in the inner city!"
23. Sam: "Israel should pull back its forces from Palestinian cities."
Tom: "So Israel should just sit back and let Palestinian terrorists kill its citizens whenever they want to."
24. You're going to Harriet's party on Friday night instead of going ice-skating with us? You must be planning to be a snob like Harriet and her friends!
25. Husband to wife: "Honey, where would you like to go to dinner tonight?"
Wife: "What's the matter with my cooking? Don't you trust me to make a decent meal for you? I'm tired of your constant complaining about my cooking."
26. Daughter: "Mom, I don't want to go to summer camp this year. I think I'm old enough to spend the summer at home with you and dad."
Mother: "I know what you really want. You want to spend the whole summer lounging around the house as a couch potato. I think not!"

**Propaganda Examples – Section F
Grouped by Technique**

- 27.** President Jacobs: “It is necessary at this time for the United States government to increase aid to American industries to help create more jobs for our young people.”
Senator Bryant: “What the president is really saying is that it is time to repay political debts to businesses now that the next presidential election is getting near.”
- 28.** Daughter: “Mom, Jessica and I are going shopping at the Mall.”
Mother: “Why should I let you go? You’re just going to spend your entire allowance on junk again.”
- 29.** Bill: “I really believe that General Jeb Stuart’s absence on the first day at Gettysburg cost the South that victory and ultimately the entire Civil War.”
Nate: “Then you believe that the entire war hinged on one man and that the entire rest of the Confederate Army was worthless.”

Propaganda Examples – Section F Grouped by Technique

9. Victory by Definition

1. Philmont: "Any working man should be able to save enough money to send his children to college."
Doyster: "But, look at Croghan; he has twelve kids – he can't save any of his earnings."
Philmont: "Yes, but I meant a 'normal' working man."
2. A true American never quits, and I don't think that you'll prove otherwise.
3. I want this country to be run by true conservatives. You say that Johnston should have our vote because he is conservative in his politics. But he voted for a decrease in defense spending. He is not a conservative in my book. He won't get my support.
4. Frick: "The Saints really haven't improved this year. They've won six games but they haven't beaten a single strong team."
Frack: "The Saints beat the Rams."
Frick: "The Rams aren't really a strong team."
5. If the Russians were to sign an arms reduction treaty with the United States, they must consider it to be in their best interests. Therefore, it must not be in the best interests of the United States, and for this reason I am opposed to signing any arms reduction treaty with them.
6. Five Central American Presidents signed a peace agreement committing their governments to move against rebel groups using their territory as bases to attack other nations. Honduran leaders said the provision did not apply to them, since there are no rebels based in Honduras. American advisors to the "freedom fighters" there had no comment.
7. Smith: "Split pea soup made with fresh peas can be found only in the South."
Jones: "Anderson Split Pea Soup isn't made in the South."
Smith: "Obviously it isn't made with genuinely fresh peas."
8. Smith: "Tulane lost to every strong team it played this year."
Jones: "They beat Mississippi State, which has a winning record."
Smith: "You call them a strong team? They've had an easy schedule."
9. Ron: "Learning can only take place inside a classroom."
Lon: "That's absurd. I've heard many people tell me that they learned more in their first year of work than they did in their last three years of school."
Ron: "I don't mean skill-learning. I mean the kind of liberal education you can get only in a good school."
10. Sure, I said that all athletes are sleazy, self-centered, and arrogant. Cal Ripken of the Baltimore Orioles? Well, he's no athlete – he's a folk hero in a baseball uniform.
11. From a radio ad for an elementary school: "100% of our graduates have been accepted to the city's top high schools."
12. From an A.T.& T. ad: "Why should I change to another phone service? The new service can't possibly be as good. It's not A.T.& T."
13. There is no such thing as luck in sports. I know that Larry Mize chipped in a miracle shot at the Masters and Robert Gamez holed out a fairway iron on the last hole to beat Greg Norman. But those players were "due" for a victory. The best player always wins, not the luckiest.

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14. I told you that Tulane did not have a nationally ranked football team this year. Yeh, I know that they were rated #24 by *USA Today*, but they didn't make the real rankings – the A.P. and U.P.I.
15. Smith: "As President, Clinton is behaving like a true Democrat. He's raising taxes and increasing government spending."
Jones: "Yes, but he did respond strongly to Saddam Hussein and to further trouble in Somalia, and you liked Bush when he did those things."
Smith: "When Clinton took those actions, he was behaving like a Republican, not a Democrat."
16. We should not include Hamilton County for a grant to "impoverished" counties. Hamilton County includes Welldinger, one of the richest communities in our state. Sure, they have some poor areas, but I don't agree that they are impoverished.
17. Those who are really interested in a strong America will vote for Ross Perot, not the two major party candidates.
18. There is no way that we are going to allow Madeline to be the trainer for the men's track team. I know that we said we would not discriminate against women, but Madeline is not what we had in mind when we set those guidelines. She is out.
19. Joe: "Johnny is a bad kid."
Moe: "How do you know?"
Joe: "I saw him coming from the office, and only bad kids get sent to the office."
20. George: "Shifty Slick is the best candidate for president. While serving in the Senate, he voted right on every important issue."
Sue: "He voted to give all Senators a \$33,000 pay raise."
George: "That wasn't an important issue."
21. Palmer: "Permanent solutions to tricky problems always take a long time to work out."
Woods: "We settled the strike at our Ohio plant in less than a day last year."
Palmer: "But that didn't achieve a permanent solution to the problem."
22. Fan #1: "Gator fans are absolutely devastated by Steve Spurrier's resignation as football coach!"
Fan #2: "Hey, I'm a Gator fan, and I don't think our team will be hurt at all by Spurrier leaving."
Fan #1: "You aren't a Gator fan. You can't be with an attitude like that."
23. Sam: "The Justice Department must be able to withhold the names of the detainees because releasing them might compromise national security."
Joe: "How is it determined what would compromise national security?"
Sam: "The Justice Department makes that determination."
24. Sign on the back of a Acme Freight Company truck: "We hire only courteous drivers."
25. Rick: "Our school's athletic program stinks."
Mick: "How can you say that? We won state last year in cross country and soccer."
Rick: "Those aren't real sports. We can't win anything in football, basketball, or baseball."
26. Amos: "All true patriots will join the regiment I am organizing and march to the aid of

**Propaganda Examples – Section F
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the Confederacy.”

John: “I am a patriot and I cannot join your regiment.”

Amos: “Regardless of your reason, if you do not enlist in this regiment, you are not a true patriot.”

- 27.** You think that we should put Henry on our soccer team for next season. No way! He hasn't worked hard enough this past season. I want only real players who try their best, not ones who pretend.

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10. Begging the Question

1. “Why is it so cold outdoors, Mommy?”
“Because it’s wintertime, Jimmy.”
“I know; but why is it wintertime?”
“Because it’s too cold to be anything else.”
“Oh.”
2. “Why does Jones hate mankind so much?”
“That’s simple. He’s a misanthropist.”
3. I should get an A on my report card because I deserve it.
4. Mrs. Buntz, the reason Sally is so mischievous is that she just has a little of the devil in her.
5. The hijacker of Flight 737 was questioned concerning his connection with the terrorist government. The head of the government gave his personal assurance to the press that the captured prisoner was not a member of his government.
6. The reason Joan Collins is a celebrity is because she is so well known.
7. To allow every person unbounded freedom of speech must always be, on the whole, advantageous to the state, for it is highly conducive to the interests of the community that each individual should enjoy unlimited liberty of expressing his sentiments.
8. The reason so many people are out of work at the present time is that unemployment is so high. Iowa is a prime example of this situation.
9. Women can never be equal to men because men are stronger in all ways. Men are stronger because of their heredity, not their environment. Their heredity gives them this advantage because of the impossibility of the equality of the sexes.
10. When asked by the reporter why he favored an income tax cut, the president replied that he considered the tax cut good for the nation.
11. “The student who burned himself to death in China did so to protest Communism.”
“How do you know?”
“Why else would he do something so drastic?”
12. Patient: “Doctor, why are you prescribing sleeping pills for me?”
Doctor: “Because I want you to sleep.”
13. The left-handed person lacks will power. For if not, the person wouldn’t be left-handed.
14. Incumbent running for reelection: “Of course some people are not doing as well financially this year. It’s clear why. People are declaring bankruptcy left and right.”
15. Your argument is not valid because it contains a fallacy.
16. The reason so many people are out of money here in South Florida is because the bankruptcy rate is so high.
17. Parent: “Why do you say that my child lied about cheating on her test?”
Teacher: “Because Sarah never intended on being honest with me regarding the test.”
18. Reeboks and Nikes are really expensive, but that’s because they cost so much.

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19. From *Alice in Wonderland*:
Cheshire Cat: "We're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."
Alice: "How do you know I'm mad?"
Cheshire Cat: "You must be mad, or you wouldn't have come here."
20. If there is creation, then there must be a creator.
21. Mohammed Ali boasted before a boxing match: "I'm going to whip Joe Frazier because I am the greatest."
22. My plan to stimulate the economy is foolproof and requires just one simple step: the American people need to get out and spend more money! You see, the more they spend, the more demand there is for products. The more demand, the more jobs are created. The more jobs created, the more money the American people will have to spend.
23. Sure I used Johnny Jones as my best reference to apply for entry into your club. You can trust Johnny; he is one of the most honest and trustworthy people I know.
24. Mary: "Why does the Dollar Store have lower prices?"
Sam: "Because it's a discount store."
Mary: "Is that why they call it the Dollar Store?"
Sam: "Yes."
25. It's cold outside, because it's winter. You better put a jacket on so you don't get sick.
26. Because the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and certain U.S. treaty obligations to honor the religious practices of its citizens require that I not be forced to violate my faith, I do not, "to the best of my knowledge and belief," owe any tax. So I have left blank line 68, AMOUNT YOU OWE, on the enclosed Form 1040. I do not owe you anything, for the government has provided me no way of paying this income tax that does not violate my religious faith.
27. I support the liberal candidate for election, because I like change.
28. Teacher: "Your son didn't hand in the final project."
Student's mother: "He says he did turn it in."
Teacher: "No, he didn't."
Mother: "I believe my son."
Teacher: "Why?"
Mother: "Because he would never lie to me."
29. Smith: "Jesus was a radical."
Jones: "Why do you say that?"
Smith: "The Romans executed him and they executed only radicals."
30. This substance will ignite in the presence of a flame because it is inflammable.

Section F

Mixed Techniques

1. Mrs. Felton is President of the PTA and you want me to believe her arguments for giving the PTA a large share in running the school? She's the last one I would believe. (3 Ad Hominem)
2. I have proposed that the university go on record as opposing the war in Vietnam and in all your talking I have yet to hear from you any reason at all why the university shouldn't do so. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
3. Mom to Son: "I can't believe it. You're late again. Can't you ever get home on time? Dinner's cold already."
Son to Mom: "But I was hurrying. I met Mrs. Bump. She is expecting her fifth child."
Mom to Son: "No, no. Mrs. Bump already has five kids. Is she pregnant again?" (1 Diversion)
4. When has the Catholic Church ever admitted its priests did anything wrong? That's why we shouldn't expect any apologies for this latest scandal. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
5. Philmont: "Any working man should be able to save enough money to send his children to college."
Doyster: "But, look at Croghan; he has twelve kids – he can't save any of his earnings."
Philmont: "Yes, but I meant a 'normal' working man." (9 Victory by Definition)
6. Jones: "I think that police using dogs and shot guns for riot control is good."
Smith: "Oh, so you think that being bit by a mad dog is good?" (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
7. Smith: "International test results show that the United States is falling behind countries like Japan, West Germany, and Russia in math and science education."
Jones: "Professor Gallagher has shown that the figures for Russia can't be trusted. The United States isn't doing so badly after all."
(2 Disproving a Minor Point)
8. Smith: "The Americans are the most violent people in the world."
Jones: "That's quite a statement to make."
Smith: "I didn't make it without sufficient reason. Our homicide rate is the highest among civilized countries."
Jones: "I doubt that."
Smith: "Look at these statistics, then. The United States' rate is double that of France, and all the other countries have rates lower than France's."
Jones: "Well, I guess you're right; we are pretty violent."
(7 Inconsequent Argument)
9. You were across the yellow line, weren't you? (5 Leading Question)
10. Regan: "It is most important to build a strong defense at this time."
Brown: "My friend counsels a foolish course. Every young man and young woman in the uniform of the armed forces is his goal."
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)

11. In your editorial, you said, "To deny the Young Socialist Alliance a voice on campus would be to deny the viability of the democratic system." By this reasoning if a group of students sought recognition for a chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, or Murder Incorporated, to deny them a voice on campus would be to deny the democratic system. (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
12. A true American never quits, and I don't think that you'll prove otherwise. (9 Victory by Definition)
13. "Why is it so cold outdoors, Mommy?"
 "Because it's wintertime, Jimmy."
 "I know; but why is it wintertime?"
 "Because it's too cold to be anything else."
 "Oh."
 (10 Begging the Question)
14. You don't agree that this movie ought to be banned? Why not? (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
15. The mayor is asked about charges directed against his newly-appointed Chief of Police – that the Chief, in the city where he served before, accepted bribes as protection money from a Mafia-run abortion clinic. The mayor said that he planned no action against the Chief on the basis of a story that had no more substantiation than "the word of a dope addict, a frightened man, an ex-alcoholic, under indictment for failure to file income tax returns, out of work, in debt, and separated from his wife and family." (3 Ad Hominem)
16. Tell me, professor, why do we have to go on with this inhuman grading system? (5 Leading Question)
17. Smith: "I favor Home Rule for this university, meaning that the students would choose the members of the Board of Trustees. Of course, the faculty should have a share in the choice, though not as large a share, since the number of faculty is much smaller than the number of students."
 Jones: "How far out of touch with reality can one get? Smith would have the trustees chosen only by students, which means that those who are at the university precisely because they lack knowledge would choose those who are responsible for giving them knowledge."
 (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
18. "Why does Jones hate mankind so much?"
 "That's simple. He's a misanthropist."
 (10 Begging the Question)
19. Come now, she isn't much of a student, is she, Professor Smaltz? (5 Leading Question)
20. Teacher: "Jeff, if you want to improve your conduct grade, you need to do the following things: Stop getting into fights with other boys; stop taking things out of other students' desks; and stop ignoring me every time I tell you to pay attention."
 Jeff: "But Mrs. Snerdly, I always pay attention every time you say get ready to go to lunch."
 (2 Disproving a Minor Point)

21. For a lot of reasons, shouldn't your brand be Blue? (5 Leading Question)
22. Do you ever donate to the Salvation Army? If so, our annual spring collection drive has just begun. (0 No Technique – not Leading Question)
23. Sure you think we should build a new bridge across the river. After all, you own 2000 acres of land on the other side of the river. (3 Ad Hominem)
24. McKenzie wants to rent his second floor apartment to the Hardings, a Black family of four. He must want our neighborhood to become a ghetto in six months. (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
25. I should get an A on my report card because I deserve it. (10 Begging the Question)
26. Smith: "Someone has said that if students are not allowed to buy beer in Violet, they will then go by car to some other town, thus increasing traffic and traffic accidents. Can you meet that objection?"
Jones: "Certainly. That is the point. The facts are that a person of average size, consuming half a bottle of beer, suffers only a 5% loss in thinking ability."
(7 Inconsequent Argument)
27. I say they're in love. Isn't it evident? How else can you explain their actions? (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
28. There is no evidence that spirits exist. So we can only conclude that something else is causing noises in this old house. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
29. Smith says he will represent us well in the Senate. This comes from a man whose father was a known gangster, whose mother was an alcoholic, and who was expelled from his first high school. (3 Ad Hominem)
30. Acid Rain Bleach does the job best. Shouldn't your brand be Acid Rain? (5 Leading Question)
31. It is easy to see why General Motors is in favor of laws which would limit the number of cars imported each year. (3 Ad Hominem)
32. I expect the Pattersons to buy a new car next year. They have bought a new car every third year for the last 15 years, and next year their Skylark will be three years old. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
33. Does Peter still burp when he eats at the Burger Palace? (5 Leading Question)
34. Steve Forbes says that he will represent us well as a fiscally conservative governor. This comes from the same man that was an avowed liberal during all his early political years. Why, he'll just give away all our tax dollars. (3 Ad Hominem)
35. Max: "I think that the search of airline passengers is important for maintaining security on flights."
Tex: "Oh, so you want the government to come prying into everything you own. Personally I want a little protection from unlawful search."
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
36. I want this country to be run by true conservatives. You say that Johnston should have our vote because he is conservative in his politics. But he voted for a decrease in defense spending. He is not a conservative in my book. He won't get my support. (9 Victory by Definition)

37. Mrs. Buntz, the reason Sally is so mischievous is that she just has a little of the devil in her. (10 Begging the Question)
38. After interviewing several reliable sources, I have come to the conclusion that Jack has never been known to drink more than one beer. It had to be someone else who stole the six-pack. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
39. Joe: "I think Al Copeland should not put up such an elaborate Christmas display because of all the traffic and congestion it causes in his neighborhood. This is both a hazard and a source of irritation to his neighbors."
Schmoe: "I disagree. This phenomenon is just an expression of the Mardi Gras spirit that is so special to this city. New Orleanians love nothing better than a big street party."
(1 Diversion)
40. Smith: "I think the President can be legitimately criticized for these arms deals with Iran."
Jones: "So you think our foreign policy should be run by Congress and the news media, do you?"
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
41. Why is it that you truck drivers always exceed the speed limit on our highways? (5 Leading Question)
42. Not a single person has come forward who actually saw Frank steal the lunch money. How can anyone possibly conclude he is guilty? (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
43. A copier ad: "Is your small copier being killed by popular demand?" (5 Leading Question)
44. Maxwell won't help our kids keep away from drugs. He's a known drunk and has been in jail twice on drug charges. Besides, look at how he dresses. He is disgusting. (3 Ad Hominem)
The hijacker of Flight 737 was questioned concerning his connection with the terrorist government. The head of the government gave his personal assurance to the press that the captured prisoner was not a member of his government. (10 Begging the Question)
45. Ivan: "Communism cannot help but work. It provides incentives for workers, it allows everyone to reap the benefits of their shared labors, and it treats all men as equals."
Gregor: "I disagree. The farmers in the eastern sector received more wheat per family than those in the western sector last spring. Therefore we northern farmers will continue with our free enterprise system of government."
(2 Disproving a Minor Point)
46. Are you going to wear your diamond earrings tonight or may I borrow them? (6 Complex Question)
47. Health quiz: "Have you smoked anything other than marijuana in the last six months?" (5 Leading Question)
48. The reason Joan Collins is a celebrity is because she is so well known. (10 Begging the Question)
49. The School Board met to rule on the teacher's competency. Her lawyer argued that

Mrs. Brown had successfully completed four years of college and had never missed a day of school in 16 years. He asked for dismissal of the charges. (7 Inconsequent Argument)

50. I believe the President's explanation of this Iran affair. The Senate investigators have not found any evidence to contradict his explanation. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
51. Frick: "The Saints really haven't improved this year. They've won six games but they haven't beaten a single strong team."
Frack: "The Saints beat the Rams."
Frick: "The Rams aren't really a strong team."
(9 Victory by Definition)
52. A: "My car is making strange noises. I think I'll take it to a mechanic."
B: "What? An auto mechanic is the last person to take your car to. He only makes money if he tells you there's something wrong with it."
(3 Ad Hominem)
53. The Federal Judge ruled that the state's prisons were overcrowded to the point where the prisoners were undergoing "cruel and unusual punishment." The Governor responded by saying that the judge wants the state to "build the prisoners a luxury hotel to stay in." (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
54. Have you finally decided to take your doctor's advice and go on a fat-free diet? (5 Leading Question)
55. To allow every person unbounded freedom of speech must always be, on the whole, advantageous to the state, for it is highly conducive to the interests of the community that each individual should enjoy unlimited liberty of expressing his sentiments. (10 Begging the Question)
56. Mrs. Donaldson is going to have a baby in a few weeks. It will undoubtedly be a girl because all four of her children are girls. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
57. If the Russians were to sign an arms reduction treaty with the United States, they must consider it to be in their best interests. Therefore, it must not be in the best interests of the United States, and for this reason I am opposed to signing any arms reduction treaty with them. (9 Victory by Definition)
58. No breath of scandal has ever touched the Senator. He must, therefore, be incorruptibly honest. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
59. The reason so many people are out of work at the present time is that unemployment is so high. Iowa is a prime example of this situation. (10 Begging the Question)
60. Five Central American Presidents signed a peace agreement committing their governments to move against rebel groups using their territory as bases to attack other nations. Honduran leaders said the provision did not apply to them, since there are no rebels based in Honduras. American advisors to the "freedom fighters" there had no comment. (9 Victory by Definition)
61. Wife to husband: "The university is having a big Super Fair this weekend. Let's go!"
Husband to wife: "Oh sure, you want me to get sick on all those rides!"
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
62. A: "Reelect Alvin for Governor. His economic reforms have saved the state millions

of dollars, education reform has made teachers accountable, and he promised me the job of Public Administrator if reelected.”

B: “The promise of you getting a political job is no reason for me to waste my vote on Alvin.”

(2 Disproving a Minor Point)

63. When the councilman proposed two laws limiting the number of t-shirt shops in the French Quarter, the opposition replied, “French Quarter USA will become French Quarter Cuba!” (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
64. Smith: “Jesus was a radical.”
Jones: “Why do you say that?”
Smith: “The Romans executed him, and they executed only radicals.”
(10 Begging the Question)
65. Fellow Senators, the current Supreme Court nominee has no prior experience as a Federal Court Judge. That is reason enough to vote against his nomination. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
66. Why is it that you feel you must keep up with Jones’ lifestyle? (5 Leading Question)
67. The murder victim was a highly-respected doctor who helped numerous patients with their problems. The accused killer has been arrested dozens of times for robbery, vagrancy, illegal possession of drugs, and even sale of drugs. Obviously a guilty verdict is called for here. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
68. Not a single person has come forward who actually ate at Frank’s Place. How can anyone conclude that the food is terrific? (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
69. Smith: “I’m voting for Ferguson. He’ll be a strong leader both in domestic and foreign affairs.”
Jones: “Oh, so you want as your President a man who sets killers free and who wants to gut the military strength of this country.”
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
70. Gentlemen, there is no doubt that Miss Davis is an incompetent teacher. She is an admitted Communist and has led campus insurrections. We should bar her from teaching here. (0 No Technique?)
71. Smith: “New Orleans showed when it hosted the Republican Convention that it isn’t really one of the top cities in the country. Delegates complained about their hotel rooms, many were robbed, the cab drivers were rude, prices were too high, and the sound system in the Superdome was a disaster.”
Jones: “The sound system in the Superdome was brought in by the Republicans. If they had used the Dome’s regular system, they wouldn’t have had a problem. No, New Orleans is big league all the way.”
(2 Disproving a Minor Point)
72. Of course, Deavers won’t support the right-to-work bill. What do you expect from a person who has underworld connections and a history of swindles? (3 Ad Hominem)
73. Could this man, this loving husband, this devoted father, this trusted employee, have committed this terrible crime? I ask you, could he? (5 Leading Question)
74. Smith: “Tulane lost to every strong team it played this year.”

Jones: "They beat Mississippi State, which has a winning record."
Smith: "You call them a strong team? They've had an easy schedule."
(9 Victory by Definition)

75. Women can never be equal to men because men are stronger in all ways. Men are stronger because of their heredity, not their environment. Their heredity gives them this advantage because of the impossibility of the equality of the sexes. (10 Begging the Question)
76. According to our judicial system, if a defendant is not proven guilty, he or she is presumed innocent. (0 No Technique – not Begging the Question)
77. Presidential candidate Pat Robertson maintained that he couldn't prove that there weren't Soviet missile sites in Cuba and therefore there might be. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
78. When asked by the reporter why he favored an income tax cut, the president replied that he considered the tax cut good for the nation. (10 Begging the Question)
79. Klar: "I think that Bent State is a good school to prepare one for the future."
Dietz: "I disagree. I hear so many negative things about Bent. I don't see how it could possibly be any good."
Klar: "Well, with the help of my high school background, Bent has prepared me very well in my field of interest."
Dietz: "Yes, your high school was good. I remember visiting it once. It was a beautiful school, very well-equipped."
Klar: "If I remember correctly, your high school was also excellent."
(1 Diversion)
80. Debate Moderator: "The issue before us is whether the United States should adopt universal military training."
General: "I think we should. We will not have time to train an army in the next war."
Pacifist: "I think war is a crime against humanity. Think of the educational system we could build if we had no war debt."
(1 Diversion)
81. After the football game, the coach was asked by a reporter, "Was it you or one of your assistant coaches who ordered your player to knock out the other team's quarterback by hitting him after the whistle?" (5 Leading Question)
82. Smith: "Split pea soup made with fresh peas can be found only in the South."
Jones: "Anderson Split Pea Soup isn't made in the South."
Smith: "Obviously it isn't made with genuinely fresh peas."
(9 Victory by Definition)
83. Professor Mason is not at all a good teacher. Why, he doesn't even wear a coat and tie while teaching his summer school classes. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
84. On the last four jobs that Turgid has had, he has failed to report to work on the average of 50% of the time. Unless he can show some reason for his excessive absences, I recommend that we not hire him. (0 No Technique – not Ad Hominem)
85. This substance will ignite in the presence of a flame because it is inflammable. (10 Begging the Question)

86. Oh really? Who are you to talk about parental guidance? You're a heavy smoker. A fine example you set for your children! (3 Ad Hominem)
87. Since we have thus far been unable to discover any limit to the universe, we must conclude that space is infinite. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
88. He: "You ought to quit smoking."
She: "You ought to quit drinking."
He: "I only drink on weekends."
(1 Diversion)
89. Won't Federal aid to Nicaragua bring more jobs, higher salaries, and improved living conditions? (6 Complex Question)
90. When Diana tried to explain to her younger brother why he should be a careful driver, he answered, "You shouldn't talk. After all, who was it that hit the danger sign, scraped the fender as she pulled into a parking space, and hit the fire hydrant, all within three hours?" (3 Ad Hominem)
91. Ron: "Learning can only take place inside a classroom."
Lon: "That's absurd. I've heard many people tell me that they learned more in their first year of work than they did in their last three years of school."
Ron: "I don't mean skill-learning. I mean the kind of liberal education you can get only in a good school."
(9 Victory by Definition)
92. I don't believe you're proposing that we teach our students about the Red Chinese government! Why, it's people like you who are implanting malicious thoughts about the overthrow of the United States that make me question letting teachers make decisions. (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
93. Sure, I said that all athletes are sleazy, self-centered, and arrogant. Cal Ripken of the Baltimore Orioles? Well, he's no athlete – he's a folk hero in a baseball uniform. (9 Victory by Definition)
94. "The student who burned himself to death in China did so to protest Communism."
"How do you know?"
"Why else would he do something so drastic?"
(10 Begging the Question)
95. It is said of Clarence Darrow, the famous criminal lawyer, that he had a case where he knew his client was guilty. Darrow came to court smoking a long cigar. When asked if he wished to cross-examine any of the prosecution's witnesses, he would say, "No," and go on smoking. Meanwhile the ash got longer and longer. Everybody on the jury was watching to see when that ash would fall off instead of listening to the prosecution's witnesses. Darrow did not introduce a shred of evidence for his client, and the jury found him "Not guilty." What Darrow had done was to push a wire through the length of the cigar. It will hold an ash indefinitely. (1 Diversion)
96. From a radio ad for an elementary school: "100% of our graduates have been accepted to the city's top high schools." (9 Victory by Definition – "top")
97. Teacher to student: "Why did you cheat on the examination?" (5 Leading Question)
98. Student to teacher in a psychology class: "What is the explanation of mind reading?" (5 Leading Question)

99. Patient: "Doctor, why are you prescribing sleeping pills for me?"
 Doctor: "Because I want you to sleep."
 (10 Begging the Question)
100. Incumbent running for reelection: "Of course some people are not doing as well financially this year. It's clear why. People are declaring bankruptcy left and right." (10 Begging the Question)
101. Of course your attorney advised you to sue. If you do, he'll receive a hefty fee! (3 Ad Hominem)
102. The left-handed person lacks will power. For if not, the person wouldn't be left-handed. (10 Begging the Question)
103. When Bobby Knight, Indiana University basketball coach, was fined \$30,000 for using foul language in a press conference after a game, he said that the committee had no business reprimanding him because seven of the nine members of the committee had themselves been reprimanded in the past. (3 Ad Hominem)
104. Political candidate addressing his opponent: "How long are we going to permit the Supreme Court to legislate for us on states rights?" (5 Leading Question)
105. Why are you bothering to vote? You must love the way these politicians are bilking the public while lining their own pockets. (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
106. Alice: "We must continue with our diet plan. Our class reunion is only one month away. C'mon, Ralph, help me prepare this food."
 Ralph: "That reminds me. I had better order the plane tickets this evening. Do you want to fly first class or coach?"
 Alice: "I thought we were going to drive."
 (1 Diversion)
107. Wife: "Marge and I are going to the Pompano Outlet Mall this afternoon. They have some super buys there."
 Husband: "Right! There goes our monthly budget again – blown sky high!"
 (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
108. Do you want to help a good cause? If so, consider donating to the United Fund. (0 No Technique – not Leading Question)
109. Why should I switch to another phone company? You can't show me that I'd get any real savings on my long-distance calls. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
110. Is your body as fit on the inside as it is on the outside? Drink Evian Spring Water. (5 Leading Question)
111. The news about the professional football players using drugs was aired on the lowest-rated station in the city. They're just trying to improve their ratings with these ridiculous charges. (3 Ad Hominem)
112. From an A.T. & T. ad: "Why should I change to another phone service? The new service can't possibly be as good. It's not A.T. & T." (9 Victory by Definition)
113. How do you get help for yourself when you are so busy helping others? Glenbow Health Sources. (5 Leading Question)
114. Magic Johnson should keep on playing. No one has proved that he can transmit AIDs by playing basketball. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)

- 115.** Ad: "Are your PCs suffering in silence? Talk to Beame & Whiteside. We will show you four new ways to expand your PC-based connectivity." (5 Leading Question)
- 116.** Son in college: "Dad, I would like to go to summer school, but I am about \$500 short of having enough money to spend the summer at school. Can you help?"
 Father: "Yeah, that's just like you, always asking for a handout. Your spending ways are going to send me to the poorhouse!"
 (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
- 117.** Your argument is not valid because it contains a fallacy. (10 Begging the Question)
- 118.** Ad: "Is the LAN industry cheating its customers? You bet it is. With claims of being 'open' when they are really closed. But not UB company. We are truly open." (5 Leading Question)
- 119.** Citizen to School Board member: "We really need this new school in our community. Our old school is already full. The way we're growing, we will be like sardines in just three years."
 School Board member: "You can't know for sure that people are going to keep moving into this area. I feel that we should wait. I vote no."
 (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
- 120.** Renee: "Come on, Ben, let's get to the library to study for our test tomorrow before we take off for the basketball game."
 Ben: "Basketball game? I thought we were going to the dance tonight. I don't want to go to any ballgame."
 Renee: "Gee whiz, Ben, you promised to take me to the ball game. This is the big playoff and everything."
 (1 Diversion)
- 121.** There is no such thing as luck in sports. I know that Larry Mize chipped in a miracle shot at the Masters and Robert Gamez holed out a fairway iron on the last hole to beat Greg Norman. But those players were "due" for a victory. The best player always wins, not the luckiest. (9 Victory by Definition)
- 122.** "What do you mean, 'Sew this button on your shirt!' Next you will want me to make you a pair of shorts and replace your kitchen curtains," cried the newlywed bride. (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
- 123.** What if, down the road, an unexpected health challenge limited your independence, depleted your savings, and determined where and how you would live? You need ACTS, the leader in near-retirement Lifecare. (6 Complex Question)
- 124.** Our principal just cut the budget for academic games at our school. Is it a coincidence that his son was kicked off the team earlier this year? I think not. (3 Ad Hominem)
- 125.** Ad: "Can you picture yourself in blue? The Blue Dart ocean cruiser will coddle you and pleasure you for an exciting week in the Caribbean." (5 Leading Question)
- 126.** Letter to a news magazine: "Your article on the environment stated that the National Audubon Society spearheaded the effort to defeat the building of a new dam on the Long River. However, it was the Smith Foundation that spent the most money in that effort. Your reporter's conclusion that the defeat of the dam will harm the state's economy is faulty." (2 Disproving a Minor Point)

127. "After they finally caught you on Wednesday night, did you admit that you had sped through the town at over 100 mph, clipped two parked cars, robbed the local supermarket, and shot the security guard in the leg?" questioned the prosecuting attorney. (6 Complex Question)
128. I'm not going to donate your old couch to the Baptist Church sale to help that family whose husband was killed in the car crash. If I let them know I care, they'll want 10% of my monthly salary. (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
129. I told you that Tulane did not have a nationally ranked football team this year. Yeh, I know that they were rated #24 by *USA Today*, but they didn't make the real rankings – the A.P. and U.P.I. (9 Victory by Definition)
130. State representative replying to charges from a local TV station: "Of course, Channel 4 News is broadcasting negative reports about me. Sam Smith, the chief reporter for Channel 4, has been out to get me for years." (3 Ad Hominem)
131. From a political debate: "My opponent asks about my record on crime. I'd like to ask her about her record on taxation. On the city council she voted three times to raise taxes." (1 Diversion)
132. "How would you like a treat – some delicious yogurt at TCBY?" said Mollie to her husband after they had finished the evening dishes. (0 No Technique)
133. Smith: "As President, Clinton is behaving like a true Democrat. He's raising taxes and increasing government spending."
 Jones: "Yes, but he did respond strongly to Saddam Hussein and to further trouble in Somalia, and you liked Bush when he did those things."
 Smith: "When Clinton took those actions, he was behaving like a Republican, not a Democrat."
 (9 Victory by Definition)
134. Parent to academic games moderator: "My son must have qualified for the national competition on the junior level. For the last three years, he has qualified for the national competition in the elementary and middle school divisions. He was also on the winning sweepstakes team. Would you please recheck your records?" (7 Inconsequent Argument)
135. Disciplinarian to student: "Since I witnessed the entire fight, are you going to admit that you harassed your opponent, threw the first punch, and stabbed him before exiting the building?" (6 Complex Question)
136. Parent: "Why do you say that my child lied about cheating on her test?"
 Teacher: "Because Sarah never intended on being honest with me regarding the test."
 (10 Begging the Question)
137. Defense attorney giving closing statement to the jury: "The prosecution's main witness is a drug addict who made a deal with the district attorney to testify against my client in order to avoid going to prison. Anything that witness said should be taken with a grain of salt." (0 No Technique)
138. Husband: "Honey, I'm going to play golf with the guys on Saturday."
 Wife: "Not again! You prefer anyone else in the world to me."
 (8 Attacking a Straw Man)

139. No breath of scandal has ever touched the Senator. He must, therefore, be incorruptibly honest. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
140. The reason so many people are out of money here in South Florida is because the bankruptcy rate is so high. (10 Begging the Question)
141. Ambassador: "The people in the Sudan are starving. They need food and finances from the United States."
 Senator: "You Africans are all the same. You want to bleed our economy until it is dry and we are all starving, too!"
 (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
142. Ad: "Would you like luxury *and* economy in an automobile? The new *Alistar* coupe gives you comfort and 30 miles per gallon." (5 Leading Question)
143. We should not include Hamilton County for a grant to "impoverished" counties. Hamilton County includes Welldinger, one of the richest communities in our state. Sure, they have some poor areas, but I don't agree that they are impoverished. (9 Victory by Definition)
144. My faith in Jesus Christ is strong. You cannot show me that Allah has provided salvation for as many people as Jesus has. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
145. Was I aware that I signed a binding contract in Chicago last June? You know, I think that we discussed that contract in Atlanta, not Chicago. Wasn't that the weekend we went to the Braves game on Saturday night? (1 Diversion)
146. Government official in the new Russia: "Every time that we try to make a decision about what is good for our people, we are disrupted by those left-thinking young radicals from the New Peoples Party." (3 Ad Hominem)
147. Courtroom:
 Lawyer: "Mr. Tyson, you are charged with assault for beating your girlfriend. Is this correct?"
 Tyson: "Yes, sir."
 Lawyer: "You claim you are not doing this?"
 Tyson: "That is correct."
 Lawyer: "When did you stop?"
 (5 Leading Question)
148. Those who are really interested in a strong America will vote for Ross Perot, not the two major party candidates. (9 Victory by Definition – "really interested")
149. Editorial: "Professor Quaysar claims he wants to improve Outerspace Elementary School by adding more qualified teachers, buying new textbooks, adding an exercise room, and improving physics test scores. He can't improve the school this way. As we all know, physics is not taught at the elementary school level." (2 Disproving a Minor Point)
150. Green: "I love to see these rich fields covered with growing corn and barley."
 Brown: "So you think it's OK for farmers to pollute our water with fertilizer?"
 (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
151. When the polls showed a majority of the voters favored the death penalty, my opponent suddenly favored the death penalty also. He'll take any position he thinks will win votes. (3 Ad Hominem)

- 152.** Senator: "The president owes it to the nation to answer honestly and completely the questions many have about his past business dealings."
 Interviewer: "Senator, why haven't you made public the full testimony from the Senate Ethics Committee's hearing into your own business dealings?"
 (1 Diversion)
- 153.** Ruthie: "Honey, we need to work hard to get in shape for the skiing trip next month."
 Ken: "No, Ruth, we go on the skiing trip in six weeks. Next month is diving."
 Ruthie: "Oh, yeah! That reminds me, I need to check on that new dive mask I ordered."
 (1 Diversion)
- 154.** Beau: "The Republicans don't have a chance. Their organization is weak; their stand on taxes is not fiscally sound; they threaten millions of voters who are beneficiaries of social welfare programs; and their candidate has a mushy personality."
 Maude: "What do you mean their candidate has a mushy personality? He is beloved by all Americans. They all respect his firm character. The Republicans are going to win."
 (2 Disproving a Minor Point)
- 155.** Of course Clinton will win the election. When was the last time you saw a candidate with his type of charisma and understanding of the economy get whipped in a national election? You can't show me even one time that it has happened before. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
- 156.** She: "Honey, I tried Maggie's new irons today on the golf course. Those clubs are wonderful! I broke 80 with them! If you buy me a set just like those for Christmas, you would make me very happy."
 He: "You broke 80? Boy, that's great. I remember the first time I broke 80. What a great round that was! If it had not been for that double bogey on 18, I would have broken 75." (1 Diversion)
- 157.** It is obvious to any thinking adult that Aid to Dependent Mothers is the right thing to do. Try to assure me that these poor children would be cared for safely without this aid. You know you can't. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
- 158.** I know that the debate is hot in basketball circles about who was the better rebounder: Wilt Chamberlain of the 60s and 70s or Dennis Rodman of recent times. But the winner is clear to me. Wilt was a bad free throw shooter, but Dennis is plain awful. The nod goes to Wilt. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
- 159.** There is no way that we are going to allow Madeline to be the trainer for the men's track team. I know that we said we would not discriminate against women, but Madeline is not what we had in mind when we set those guidelines. She is out. (9 Victory by Definition)
- 160.** Carl Rogers surely is persuasive about the plans for the new recreational park here in our town. But wasn't Carl the same guy who recently chased his wife away in a bitter divorce? And wasn't he also involved in that shaky investment with the State Department? (3 Ad Hominem)
- 161.** Dad: "I just want a simple 'yes' or 'no,' young lady. Have you finished your homework yet?" (0 No Technique – not Complex Question)

162. Student: "But Mrs. Wilson, you promised that if we finished our homework before the volleyball game today that you would let us out to see the game."
Mrs. Wilson: "Volleyball? I can't wait to get to the big football game tonight. Our guys are gonna win the city championship."
Student: "Are you kidding? Our guys don't have a chance. They will be killed."
(1 Diversion)
163. Ad: "Don't you want the best for your kids? First American Life Assurance allows you to provide a secure future for your family even after you are gone." (5 Leading Question)
164. Father: "Son, you may not go out tonight because your room is not clean, your chores haven't been done, and your homework is not completed."
Son: "Dad, I can't put out the trash until Mom finishes cleaning the kitchen."
(2 Disproving a Minor Point)
165. Teacher: "Charles, where is your homework?"
Charles: "Oh, I left it at home. But I did bring my shrunken head from Brazil. The Jivaro Indians, who live in the Amazon jungle, shrink the heads of intruders they shoot with poisoned darts from their blowguns."
Teacher: "That's right. And did you know that the poison used on the darts is called *curare*?"
(1 Diversion)
166. I've never seen a bird that couldn't fly. That's how I know that all birds can fly. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
167. Mother to child: "There are several good reasons why you should eat vegetables. Vegetables have a lot of vitamins; they are a good source of fiber; and they taste good."
Child: "That's not true, Mom. Spinach never tastes good."
(2 Disproving a Minor Point)
168. Mrs. X: "Children, too many of you are coming to class late. It is very important to be on time."
Student: "But Mrs. X, I heard the principal telling you that you were never on time for faculty meetings; so why should it matter if we are late?"
(3 Ad Hominem)
169. Mom: "I saw the way you looked at my chocolate fudge cake. I saw your mouth water. You want a piece, don't you?" (5 Leading Question)
170. Joe: "Johnny is a bad kid."
Moe: "How do you know?"
Joe: "I saw him coming from the office, and only bad kids get sent to the office."
(9 Victory by Definition)
171. TV commercial: "Wouldn't you really rather drive a Buick?" (5 Leading Question)
172. George: "Shifty Slick is the best candidate for president. While serving in the Senate, he voted right on every important issue."
Sue: "He voted to give all Senators a \$33,000 pay raise."
George: "That wasn't an important issue."
(9 Victory by Definition)

173. Ferd: "You know, it's a good idea to use policemen on horses to control crowds during holiday parades."
Nerd: "I can't see where being trampled and kicked by big horses is a good idea."
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
174. Yes, I know that Margaret has made us a lot of money over the years with her ideas and extra work. But we now know that she has revealed some of our secrets to our competitors, and she is selling alcohol to minors on the side out of her home. We need to let her go. (0 No Technique – not Ad Hominem)
175. Reeboks and Nikes are really expensive, but that's because they cost so much. (10 Begging the Question)
176. Let me get this straight. You say that the bank may raise our loan rate, and the town may refuse to grant us the right of way, and the neighbors are going to get upset by the size of our addition. Well, then, it is settled. I couldn't care less about those neighbors of ours who have been noisy and irritating for the last five years. (2 Disproving a Minor Point)
177. What do you mean, we should not buy that new boat? Of course we should. But let's not get into that now. I was planning on taking you out to that new restaurant over on 25th Street. Want to go? (1 Diversion)
178. From *Alice in Wonderland*:
Cheshire Cat: "We're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."
Alice: "How do you know I'm mad?"
Cheshire Cat: "You must be mad, or you wouldn't have come here."
(10 Begging the Question)
179. The conclusions of the philosopher Spinoza are invalid for, as everyone knows, he was expelled from the Synagogue. (3 Ad Hominem)
180. Of course my Dad's motorcycle is the fastest one made in the country. Can you show me a faster one? Huh? C'mon! See! I knew that you couldn't! That settles it. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
181. Ad: "Can you picture yourself on the sunny sands of Kingston, Jamaica? Carnival Cruise Lines leaves weekly from Miami for seven heavenly days and nights in paradise." (5 Leading Question)
182. If there is creation, then there must be a creator. (10 Begging the Question)
183. A bank teller was caught after stealing from his bank. When asked why he did it, he replied: "For years I have watched this bank unethically steal millions of dollars from the poor and the weak. I figured that it would do them justice if I stole a few thousands back from them." (7 Inconsequent Argument)
184. City council member in a closed meeting of the council: "I insist that we release to the public the complete records of the investigation into police brutality."
Another council member: "Then you will be responsible for the riot that takes place in the inner city!" (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
185. Wife: "Dear, don't you think it would be fun to go to a movie tonight?"
Husband: "You know how I hate movies! Why do you always want to go to a movie?"
(5 Leading Question)

- 186.** Have you five dollars to lend me? (0 No Technique)
- 187.** Nevins is a southern historian, so if I were you I wouldn't put much faith in his account of Confederate victories. (3 Ad Hominem)
- 188.** Prosecution attorney to the defendant on the witness stand in a murder trial: "Why did you kill your wife?" (5 Leading Question)
- 189.** Sign on the back of a Acme Freight Company truck: "We hire only courteous drivers." (9 Victory by Definition)
- 190.** Ad: "Afraid of heights? Not fond of powdery orange drinks? Claustrophobic? Not interested in traveling in a space capsule to the moon? If your answer is yes, don't worry. At Spring Hill Suites, you get a room with all the space you'll need." (6 Complex Question)
- 191.** Mohammed Ali boasted before a boxing match: "I'm going to whip Joe Frazier because I am the greatest." (10 Begging the Question)
- 192.** Defense attorney questioning a witness in a trial: "You have admitted that you lied to police when you said you didn't know the defendant. Aren't you lying again when you say you saw him at the scene of the crime?" (5 Leading Question)
- 193.** Bill Clinton has offered suggestions on solving the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. But why should we listen to a man who left the White House in disgrace after being impeached and lying to the Special Prosecutor? (3 Ad Hominem)
- 194.** Sam: "Israel should pull back its forces from Palestinian cities."
Tom: "So Israel should just sit back and let Palestinian terrorists kill its citizens whenever they want to."
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
- 195.** Husband to wife: "I think we should take our vacation to Disney World this summer. Of course, the last time we went there, we spent the week in the hotel because of constant rain. That was back in '98 – or was it '97? My memory's going bad. I can't remember what I had for breakfast this morning. What are we having for supper tonight?" (1 Diversion)
- 196.** Palmer: "Permanent solutions to tricky problems always take a long time to work out."
Woods: "We settled the strike at our Ohio plant in less than a day last year."
Palmer: "But that didn't achieve a permanent solution to the problem."
(9 Victory by Definition)
- 197.** The AAA vehicle insurance program costs twice as much when you add a teenage driver to the coverage. The National Mutual program costs even more than the AAA option. State Farm insurance isn't available in our state. We should choose the Southeast Auto Insurance program. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
- 198.** Ad: "Shouldn't you be thrilled by your job? Do you work only for a paycheck? Don't you want to make the most of your time at work? Read the *LifeWork Journal* to show you how to make your work better." (6 Complex Question)
- 199.** You're going to Harriet's party on Friday night instead of going ice-skating with us? You must be planning to be a snob like Harriet and her friends! (8 Attacking a Straw Man)

- 200.** What do you mean a shortfall in my sales this month? Why, I was doing fine until that weekend golfing trip we took. By the way, you were great that weekend. Shot a 77 the first day and a 75 the next day, didn't you? No? It was a 74! I still can't believe how good you were. We should plan another outing in a couple of weeks. OK? (1 Diversion)
- 201.** Fan #1: "Gator fans are absolutely devastated by Steve Spurrier's resignation as football coach!"
Fan #2: "Hey, I'm a Gator fan, and I don't think our team will be hurt at all by Spurrier leaving."
Fan #1: "You aren't a Gator fan. You can't be with an attitude like that."
(9 Victory by Definition)
- 202.** McGarrity's plan for expanding our community seems brilliant. But he has always been a shady character. He hangs out with thugs. No way I can support his plan. (3 Ad Hominem)
- 203.** Wife: "Honey, how did work go today? Did you ask your boss about a raise?"
Husband: "Oh! Speaking of work, as I drove to work this morning I saw your sister Maggie driving a new Volvo convertible."
Wife: "I wonder where she got the money for that. She really doesn't make that much at her job." (1 Diversion)
- 204.** Mrs. Brown: "Kelly, I know that you stole three of my personal books from my classroom. I have two student witnesses who saw you leaving my room with the books. I found the books in your locker. I also received a note from Mr. Jenkins that you were very late to your 5th period class. That was one of only two periods my room was vacant."
Kelly: "Mrs. Brown, your information is all wrong. I couldn't have stolen those books. During period 5, I was in the dean of students' office getting detention for a fight I was involved in at lunch." (2 Disproving a Minor Point)
- 205.** Serena says that we must save money in all aspects of our business. However, how can she possibly expect us to listen when she is the worst one at using the company credit card for non-company matters? (3 Ad Hominem)
- 206.** Ad in high school newspaper: "Do you want to live life to the fullest? If so, you can't miss our senior trip to Cancun." (5 Leading Question)
- 207.** Ad: "Do you want gorgeous legs? Do you want legs that make every head turn? Do you want soft smooth legs without all the hassles of daily shaving? Then you want our 'No More Stubble Hair Remover.' It gives you the legs you only dreamed of." (6 Complex Question)
- 208.** Why should I do my homework? My brother Doug never did his homework, and he turned out OK. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
- 209.** Husband to wife: "Honey, where would you like to go to dinner tonight?"
Wife: "What's the matter with my cooking? Don't you trust me to make a decent meal for you? I'm tired of your constant complaining about my cooking." (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
- 210.** You don't expect me to support giving our most significant account to Sally. She has been cheating on her husband for the last six months. (3 Ad Hominem)

- 211.** Sam: "The Justice Department must be able to withhold the names of the detainees because releasing them might compromise national security."
 Joe: "How is it determined what would compromise national security?"
 Sam: "The Justice Department makes that determination."
 (9 Victory by Definition)
- 212.** My plan to stimulate the economy is foolproof and requires just one simple step: the American people need to get out and spend more money! You see, the more they spend, the more demand there is for products. The more demand, the more jobs are created. The more jobs created, the more money the American people will have to spend. (10 Begging the Question)
- 213.** Son: "Mom, may I have a cookie?"
 Mother: "No, it will spoil your dinner."
 Son: "So where are we going for dinner tonight?"
 Mother: "I found this really neat home-style steak and ribs place that you and your father will love."
 Son, munching on a cookie: "Yum, that sounds great!"
 (1 Diversion)
- 214.** Jenny said, "That movie was awesome. The special effects were spectacular. The star was really handsome and it was impossible to figure out the ending until it happened."
 Rita replied, "What, you think that star was handsome? He was just average. I'm not recommending that movie to anyone."
 (2 Disproving a Minor Point)
- 215.** Scientists claim that in 25 years we will have an inventory of every organism and animal in the world. This cannot possibly be right. You can never prove that you've found every last living thing on the planet. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
- 216.** I don't see how anyone could vote for Margaret for 7th grade class president. How can anyone who was accused of cheating on a 5th grade math test honestly fulfill the requirements of a class officer? (3 Ad Hominem)
- 217.** Daughter: "Mom, I don't want to go to summer camp this year. I think I'm old enough to spend the summer at home with you and dad."
 Mother: "I know what you really want. You want to spend the whole summer lounging around the house as a couch potato. I think not!"
 (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
- 218.** Mother to son: "Jake, wouldn't you really like to take a fun vacation to a nice mountain with a lake with cool water? A lake where you could fish and ride in a canoe. Wouldn't that be nicer than going to Florida where it's really hot?" (6 Complex Question)
- 219.** I don't want him in my class. I had both his brothers in class in the past, and they were rude and obnoxious. They disrupted my lessons constantly. I won't accept him in my room. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
- 220.** Telephone caller: "Congratulations! You have been selected to receive a one-year subscription to *Ninja News* at a special 25% discount rate. A free photo of the Turtles is yours just for saying yes. Will you be using a credit card?" (5 Leading Question)

221. Sure I used Johnny Jones as my best reference to apply for entry into your club. You can trust Johnny; he is one of the most honest and trustworthy people I know. (10 Begging the Question)
222. Teacher: "Your son didn't hand in the final project."
 Student's mother: "He says he did turn it in."
 Teacher: "No, he didn't."
 Mother: "I believe my son."
 Teacher: "Why?"
 Mother: "Because he would never lie to me."
 (10 Begging the Question)
223. Rick: "Our school's athletic program stinks."
 Mick: "How can you say that? We won state last year in cross country and soccer."
 Rick: "Those aren't real sports. We can't win anything in football, basketball, or baseball."
 (9 Victory by Definition)
224. Mary: "Why does the Dollar Store have lower prices?"
 Sam: "Because it's a discount store."
 Mary: "Is that why they call it the Dollar Store?"
 Sam: "Yes."
 (10 Begging the Question)
225. My opponent claims that he supports a unified and complete family, which is surely needed in today's society. However, he himself has been divorced twice and rarely spends time with his four children. (3 Ad Hominem)
226. Lawyer addressing potential jurors: "I want to make sure that you will not give more weight to a police officer's testimony than to any other witness' testimony. Mr. Smith, you wouldn't give more weight to a police officer's testimony, would you?" (Mr. Smith says "no.") "Mrs. Jones, you wouldn't give more weight to a police officer?" (Mrs. Jones shakes her head "no.") "The rest of you, you won't give more weight to a police officer, right?" (The rest of the panel answers "no.") (5 Leading Question)
227. Mother: "In order to go out tonight with your friends, you have to clean your room, take out the garbage, and walk the dog."
 Daughter: "But, mom, I've already washed the dishes. Isn't that enough?"
 (2 Disproving a Minor Point)
228. Prosecutor to defendant: "Mr. Smith, what were you thinking when you murdered that helpless old man?" (5 Leading Question)
229. Mother: "Johnny, your report card came today in the mail. We need to have a little talk about your grades."
 Johnny: "I know, mom, but you'll never believe what happened today at school. There was a huge fight in the courtyard, and the police had to come."
 Mother: "Oh my goodness, was anyone hurt?"
 Johnny: "One guy got a black eye and another one got a broken nose, but no major injuries."
 Mother: "I'm so relieved! Schools are becoming a very scary place nowadays!"
 (1 Diversion)

230. I believe beings from outer space have visited the Earth. The U.S. Air Force has studied the situation for 40 years and has not come up with conclusive proof against alien visitors. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
231. What? You say that their guards are way too quick and strong for us? That we cannot handle their press? Our center Adam Smith will dominate in the middle. He is too big and too talented for any forward or center that they have. We will beat them. (7 Inconsequent Argument)
232. Reporter to the CIA Director: "It sounds like you have a pretty good idea of where Osama Bin Laden is. Where is he?"
CIA Director: "I have an excellent idea of where he is. What's the next question?" (0 No Technique)
233. Senator Grant: "Senator Patterson is leading a portion of the Senate that has threatened to change the filibuster rules so that a smaller majority of Senators can end a filibuster and control the voting for presidential nominations. He must really be power crazed and afraid to compromise." (3 Ad Hominem)
234. The president claims that he is going to reduce taxes, increase funding for Social Security, and provide a means for stopping the war in the Middle East. How can you believe a word he says when he has been promising to put an end to the war for the past year? He has claimed to "be working" on stopping the war, but have we seen any action? Of course not. He is simply blowing smoke! (2 Disproving a Minor Point)
235. Reporter interviewing the author of a book against the death penalty:
Reporter: "You write that we execute innocent people 'all the time.'"
Author: "Well, everything points to it. Can someone say with certainty that we have not executed an innocent person?" (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
236. Ad: "Feeling tired? Sluggish? Bloated? Having trouble losing weight? If the answer is 'yes,' then chances are your body is toxic. You need Puranol." (6 Complex Question)
237. A wife said to her husband as he got home from work, "We have a major crisis with our son Billy. We have to take care of this immediately." The husband replied, "Honey, you look gorgeous tonight. Would you like me to take you out to eat at the new restaurant?" (1 Diversion)
238. President Jacobs: "It is necessary at this time for the United States government to increase aid to American industries to help create more jobs for our young people."
Senator Bryant: "What the president is really saying is that it is time to repay political debts to businesses now that the next presidential election is getting near." (8 Attacking a Straw Man)
239. Do you wish you could bake like Martha Stewart, sew like your grandmother, and clean so well everything looks new again? If so, subscribe to *Housekeeping Made Simple*. Our new magazine will have you doing more than you've ever expected. (6 Complex Question)
240. Anyone who would dare to criticize the president in this time of war is unpatriotic. If you don't like it here, leave. (3 Ad Hominem)

241. Owner of a small business: "Gus, it has come to my attention that you've been stealing a few dollars from the cash register each day. You've also been leaving early every day and insulting many customers. You're fired and I don't want to see you in this store again."
Gus: "You're wrong. I shouldn't be fired. I didn't insult that many customers."
(2 Disproving a Minor Point)
242. Of course, our Badgers will win the Regional Championship Game. You cannot show me how the Coyotes are going handle our pressing defense and our big men. We will overwhelm them. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
243. Mrs. Jones to her class: "I'm thinking about having our next test Friday."
Student: "Mrs. Jones, did you go to the game last night?"
Mrs. Jones: "Yes, I did and it was a great game. Were you there?"
(1 Diversion)
244. Daughter: "Mom, Jessica and I are going shopping at the Mall."
Mother: "Why should I let you go? You're just going to spend your entire allowance on junk again."
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
245. Amos: "All true patriots will join the regiment I am organizing and march to the aid of the Confederacy."
John: "I am a patriot and I cannot join your regiment."
Amos: "Regardless of your reason, if you do not enlist in this regiment, you are not a true patriot."
(9 Victory by Definition)
246. It's cold outside, because it's winter. You better put a jacket on so you don't get sick. (10 Begging the Question)
247. Ad for a computer company: "Is the new century leaving your computer in the dust? Come by today for a quick and easy software upgrade." (5 Leading Question)
248. Smith: "The biggest problem with computerized voting systems is that they are not transparent. We need a paper trail to back up the counts that the machines give."
Jones: "You're just a paranoid conspiracy theorist!"
(3 Ad Hominem)
249. Secretary of Defense: "There is no doubt about it, we need the new missile defense system. The cost will be roughly \$35 billion."
Senator Brown: "Secretary Williams, why should we trust your decision that new weapons systems are needed? Once before we wasted billions of dollars on a missile defense system that didn't work!"
(7 Inconsequent Argument)
250. Question in an online chat with Laura Bush during the 2004 Presidential Campaign: "Mrs. Bush, would you ever consider debating Mrs. Kerry? The public is eager to hear the two of you discuss this election's key issues."
Laura Bush: "I think the only debating we'll be doing is over who bakes a better cookie! *Family Circle* magazine is running a contest to see who has the best cookie recipe. Go to the *Family Circle* website to vote for my Oatmeal Chocolate Chunk Cookies. They are the President's favorite!"
(1 Diversion)

- 251.** Bill: "I really believe that General Jeb Stuart's absence on the first day at Gettysburg cost the South that victory and ultimately the entire Civil War."
Nate: "Then you believe that the entire war hinged on one man and that the entire rest of the Confederate Army was worthless."
(8 Attacking a Straw Man)
- 252.** The National Hurricane Network claims that this year will be even worse than last year. We are expected to have more than 12 named storms, 5 of them severe. I don't believe a word they say. I mean, how are they to know what the future holds? We cannot possibly claim to truly know what this hurricane season will be like. We'll just have to wait and see.
(4 Appeal to Ignorance)
- 253.** You think that we should put Henry on our soccer team for next season. No way! He hasn't worked hard enough this past season. I want only real players who try their best, not ones who pretend. (9 Victory by Definition)
- 254.** I support the liberal candidate for election, because I like change. (10 Begging the Question)
- 255.** If Ronaldo had not been hurt, Brazil would certainly have won the soccer World Cup. (4 Appeal to Ignorance)
- 256.** Because the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and certain U.S. treaty obligations to honor the religious practices of its citizens require that I not be forced to violate my faith, I do not, "to the best of my knowledge and belief," owe any tax. So I have left blank line 68, AMOUNT YOU OWE, on the enclosed Form 1040. I do not owe you anything, for the government has provided me no way of paying this income tax that does not violate my religious faith. (10 Begging the Question)
- 257.** Police detective: "Where were you the night of the murder?"
Suspect: "I was alone and you can't prove I wasn't."
(10 Inconceivability)