



Comm Skills Virtual Learning

Debate I &

Adv Competitive Debate

Logical Fallacies - Hasty Generalization

May 07, 2020



Lesson: May 7, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:
Define, identify, and refute logical fallacies.**

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

You are debater 2. What is your response to Debater 1?

Debater 1: In Elkins, Arkansas, 7 out of 10 crimes were prevented through the use of predictive policing.

Debater 2 (after finding out Elkins, Arkansas, has a population of 3179):

Lesson/Activity: Hasty Generalization

A fallacy is a false or mistaken idea.

A logical fallacy is an error in reasoning or a false assumption.

Identifying logical fallacies in debate can help shorten the time it takes to come up with a response to your opponent. It can also make you sound really smart if you can label the logical fallacy your opponent is using. Finally, learning about logical fallacies can help *you* not use them during a debate.

Today, we will explore the Hasty Generalization. The next several slides will show a definition and an example of the Hasty Generalization.

Hasty Generalization - definition and form

Watching this [video](#) might help you understand the following information.

Hasty Generalization definition: Drawing a conclusion based on a small sample size, rather than looking at statistics that are much more in line with the typical or average situation.

(Bennett, Bo. "Logically Fallacious." *Logically Fallacious*, www.logicallyfallacious.com/)

Logical Form of Hasty Generalization:

- *Sample S is taken from population P.*
- *Sample S is a very small part of population P.*
- *Conclusion C is drawn from sample S and applied to population P.*

Hasty Generalization - examples

1. Three out of four school teachers prefer Bright Marks Markers, but I only asked four teachers total.
2. You visit a new country and the first person you meet in the airport is rude. You send a message to a friend back home that everyone in this new country is rude.
3. Christine has a terrible experience with a boyfriend. She decides that all boys are mean.
4. Kevin's grandparents do not know how to use a computer. Kevin thinks that all older people must be computer illiterate.
5. My Nana likes to bake and drink hot tea. When I meet your Nana, I am surprised that she doesn't cook at all and drinks sodas.
6. A driver with a New York license plate cuts you off in traffic. You decide that all New York drivers are terrible drivers.
7. Alissa has class with a football player who is a class clown. He disrupts the class and is failing. Alissa decides all football players are not serious students.
8. On the first day of high school, Mark runs into a cheerleader who calls him a name and tells him to move out of her way. Mark decides all cheerleaders are snobs.
9. Mrs. Miller taught your older brother, who was the class clown. She decides to be strict with you from the very first day of class because she thinks you will be a clown, too.

(Source: https://www.softschools.com/examples/fallacies/false_dilemma_examples/491/)

Hasty Generalization - refutation

When refuting or countering the Hasty Generalization in debate, do this:

1. Point out the flaw in their reasoning.
2. Show they have reached a conclusion prematurely.
3. Show they have reached a conclusion on the basis of insufficient information.
 - a. Show how little information was used to form the conclusion
 - b. Point out what information is missing
 - c. Suggest alternative conclusions that also make sense given what they know.

(Reference: https://effectiviology.com/jumping-to-conclusions/#How_to_respond_to_people_who_jump_to_conclusions)

Practice - Hasty Generalization

Think about one of your debate topics this year.

What was a common Hasty Generalization you or your opponents made?

Write an example of a Hasty Generalization that follows the logical form.

Now, use the refutation tips to refute that argument.

Additional Resources

[WIRELESS PHILOSOPHY](#)

Explore [MORE](#) fallacies