

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

## A3. A Writer's Reference: Evaluating Arguments

Read pgs. 92-100 in A Writer's Reference. While you read, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. According to Hacker, what are logical fallacies?
2. Define **inductive reasoning** and list one of the examples that Hacker provides.

EX: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is a **hasty generalization**?
4. Explain how/why the following an example of a **hasty generalization**. Be specific.  
*From the time that he was eighteen, my grandfather smoked a pack of cigarettes a day, and he lived to be 90 years old. Therefore, smoking really can't really be all that bad for you.*
5. To avoid making hasty generalizations, English writers can replace words such as \_\_\_\_\_ qualifiers such as \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What is a **false analogy** (also known as a *faulty comparison*)?
7. Explain how/why the following an example of a **false analogy**. Be specific.  
*Because we put animals who are in irreversible pain out of their misery, we should do the same for people.*
8. Testing inductive reasoning: What three questions can writers use to assess a conclusion's likely probability?
9. Using the inductive reasoning test, **analyze the logic behind** the following conclusion and evidence. For our purposes we will pretend the survey was conducted at North Cobb High School.  
**CONCLUSION:** *The majority of students at North Cobb would take one online class and start school at 10:00 if the option were available.*  
**EVIDENCE:** *In a recent survey, 800 of 1,200 students questioned said they would take one online class and start school at 10:00 if the option were available.*

10. What is a **post hoc** fallacy?

11. Explain how/why the following is an example of a **post hoc fallacy**. Be specific.  
*We elected Johnson as president and look where it got us: hurricanes, floods, and stock market crashes.*

12. What is an **either...or fallacy**? (also known as a *false dilemma*)

13. Explain how/why the following is an example of an **either...or fallacy**. Be specific.

*While gun violence is tragic, it is essential that we protect the right to bear arms. Americans must have the means to defend themselves. If the government restricts gun rights, then what we'll have is a situation where the only people with guns will be criminals, and those criminals will run our society.*

14. What is a **non sequitur**?

15. Explain how/why the following is a **non sequitur**. Be specific.

*Marilyn drives a Mercedes. Marilyn must be wealthy.*

16. Define **deductive reasoning**.

17. What is a **syllogism**, and what are the 3 steps writers might use to structure this type of argument?

18. When do deductive arguments break down?

19. Consider the following **sound** syllogism:

- a. **Major premise:** *Exercise contributes to better health.*
- b. **Minor Premise:** *Yoga is a type of exercise.*
- c. **Conclusion:** *Yoga contributes to better health.*

Now, explain the **problem** with the following **illogical** syllogism:

- a. **Major premise:** *Celebrities are role models for young people.*
- b. **Minor Premise:** *Lindsey Lohan is a celebrity.*
- c. **Conclusion:** *Lindsey Lohan is a role model for young people.*

20. Many of the arguments we see in the \_\_\_\_\_ strive to win our \_\_\_\_\_ rather than our \_\_\_\_\_.

21. Define the following types of *unfair emotional appeals*:

ad hominem: \_\_\_\_\_

transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

bandwagon: \_\_\_\_\_

red herring: \_\_\_\_\_

22. What is a **straw man** fallacy?

23. Explain how/why the following is an example of a **straw man fallacy**:

*Politician X proposes that we put astronauts on Mars in the next four years. Politician Y ridicules this proposal by saying that his opponent is looking for "little green men in outer space."*