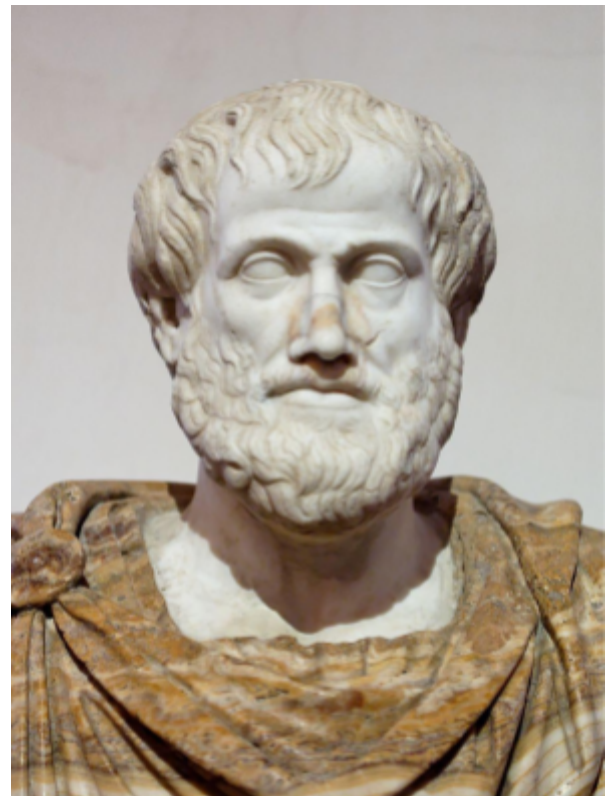


Logical Fallacies: Don't Do Them

Sure, looking at what to do is helpful, but sometimes looking at what not to do can be of even greater help. So, what shouldn't you do while debating or making an argument?

In general, while debating or making an argument, **don't commit the following logical fallacies:**

- *Ad hominem*: a latin term meaning “against the man.” It's when you attack the person behind the argument rather than the argument itself.
- Straw man: when you argue against a point that the opponent doesn't actually hold.
- Slippery slope: an argument where you suppose, since A is allowed, eventually Z will happen.
 - Example: Certain people who align with alt-right American politics argue that because American liberals have pushed for laws defending homosexual marriage, eventually they will push for laws that defend pedophilia.
- Appeal to authority: The idea that something must be true because an authority said it.
- Texas sharpshooter: when you twist the data or numbers to argue something they don't by ignoring the differences while stressing the similarities.
- Appeal to novelty: because an argument is newer, it's better.
- Hasty generalization: making assumptions or stereotyping a group based on inconclusive or unreliable evidence.
- Red herring: a distraction from the central focus of the debate or argument.
 - Example: In a paper you argue the following: “The Society of Jesus's doctrine of Finding God in All Things, and the Kuyperian doctrine of Sphere Sovereignty share multiple theological principles... (and you would put the principles here).” In this paper, you would want to stick to the theological principles that the two Christian traditions share, it would be inappropriate to write an entire page on St. Ignatius's experiences in war, unless this was somehow connected to the Society of Jesus'



Aristotle, a classic rhetorician

doctrine. This distraction from the main argument is a red herring, and a bad one at that.