



The Ratiocination Inculcator

1999-2000 Academic Year, Number 5

<http://www.clearlight.com/~ccs/logic/>

Second Quarter Project

Last Tuesday I gave the students a project that is to be turned in on or before Friday, 14 January 2000.

Just in case your child hasn't told you about this project yet, I'll give you some information about it here.

The project is simply this: to find and document written or spoken examples of the fallacies (formal and informal) that we are studying in class. About the only restriction on the sources of the fallacies is that the writer or speaker must not be aware that he or she is committing a fallacy. This means, for instance, that examples taken from a logic book do not count.

Because we live in a mostly irrational age, sources of logical fallacies abound. Newspapers—especially editorials, columns, and letters to the editor—are excellent sources. So, too, are many magazines, television news and commentary programs, radio talk shows, and advertisements in any medium.

The project will count as a test grade. Each student's grade on the project will be based on the total number of fallacies and the number of different fallacy types he or she finds. The following table gives the details.

total # found	# diff. types	grade
≥ 20	≥ 10	100
≥ 20	7-9	95
18-19	≥ 10	98
18-19	7-9	93
16-17	≥ 10	92
16-17	7-9	90
≥ 16	≤ 7	82
14-15	≥ 10	90
12-13	≥ 10	88
10-11	≥ 10	85
15	7-9	84

total # found	# diff. types	grade
12-14	7-9	80
11-15	≤ 7	78
10	7-9	76
10	≤ 7	74
7-9	≥ 7	74
7-9	≤ 7	70
5-6	1-6	65
3-4	1-4	55
1-2	1-2	50
0	0	0

If more than one student gets a 100, the student who finds the most fallacies will receive an extra bonus.

I have encouraged the students to work on this weekly beginning right away. Any student who does so should be able to get at least an 85 without much effort. Students who wait until the last week or two are likely to have difficulty getting a grade much higher than 70. Please remind your child each week to devote some time to the project.

If you have any questions about the project, please let me know. You can send email to me at <holloway@clearlight.com>, send a note to me through your child, or call me at 865-1082 between 7:30-8:30 p.m.

You can, also, if you prefer, talk to me in person at the auction Friday night. That is, you can talk to me there so long as it doesn't distract you from bidding often, and bidding high. I'll be wearing a Dickensque costume and hanging around the bid sheets for the Jonathan Edwards and Winston Churchill books.

Hope to see you there,