

DEBATE COURSE - LOGICAL FALLACIES  
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Generally speaking, people do not reason much; they are emotional creatures: they feel, they react irrationally. Thus, it is very common in middle and high school debates to hear team members make errors in 'logic', which happen when the emotions influence judgment. Ironically, debates in the real world are decided on the basis of emotion rather than reason. A good exercise for the student is to read texts, especially in newspapers, on television news, and Internet sites, to look for fallacies in reasoning. Here, for the record, are some common fallacies made in debates:

*Ad Hominem* ('to the man')  
Affirming the Consequent  
Argument from Authority  
Argument from Ignorance (Non-Testable Hypothesis)  
Band Wagon  
Begging the Question (Circular Argument)  
Dogmatism  
Either/Or (Excluded Middle)  
Emotional Appeals  
Fallacy of Exclusion  
Faulty Analogy  
Hasty Generalization (Misunderstanding Statistics, Non-Representative Sample)  
Moral Equivalency  
*Non Sequitur* ('it does not follow')  
*Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc* ('after this, therefore, on account of this') (This fallacy is also called False Causality, Correlation versus Causation)  
Red Herring  
Semantics or Equivocation (Splitting Hairs, Playing with Words, Using Legalisms)  
Slippery Slope  
Straw Man  
Weasel Words (Glittering Generality)  
Occam's Razor