

Exercises Ad Hominem

Spot any abusive, circumstantial, or inconsistency ad hominem

1. This birth control proposal is contrary to your religious principles; you should be the first one to reject, not support it.
2. The California State Supreme Court – a wonderful collection right out of Lewis Carroll, lovable eccentrics who seem to take their law from Alice in Wonderland instead of Blackstone – has ruled Oakland can acquire the Raiders.
3. The socialists would do just what the capitalists do if they had the chance.
4. If the Peace Corps is so great, why aren't you in it?
5. The person who rejects my conclusions is either an insane bigot or a foul-mouthed slanderer
6. The president of the bank maintains that personal income taxes for the wealthy should be reduced. It is just what you would expect from a person who has a big income and is greedy for more.
7. The senator is really sponsoring the amendment primarily as a way to gain national recognition in his bid for the presidency.
8. Robert Towan, president of Fruehauf Corp., commenting on the fact that his company had been spending \$1 million a year on legal fees fighting a FTC ruling against one of its acquisitions: "FTC people feel all business is bad. I have never seen a group of people so antibusiness. You walk into the room and there's a young guy who graduated from some Ivy League college and never worked a day for a living".
9. Ku Klux Klan circular: "Every criminal, every gambler, every thug, every libertine, every girl runner, every home wrecker, every wife beater, every dope peddler, every moonshiner, every crooked politician, every pagan Papist priest, every shyster lawyer, every K. of C., every white slaver, every brothel madam, every Rome-controlled newspaper, every black spider is fighting the Klan. Think it over. Which side are you on?"
10. The trouble with Sobran's gripe about Clinton increasing the power of the federal government is that Sobran is the one who wants the government to tell women they can't have abortions.
11. Bush's tax cut stinks. He is just trying to please big business.

12. The proponents of this spend-now-pay-later boondoggle would like you to believe that this measure will cost you only one billion dollars. That's NOT TRUE. In the last general election some of these very same people argued against unneeded rail projects because they would cost taxpayers millions more in interest payments. Now they have changed their minds and are willing to encourage irresponsible borrowing. Connecticut is already awash in red ink. Vote NO.
13. Rush Limbaugh argues that the establishment clause of the First Amendment should not be stretched beyond its intended dimensions by precluding voluntary prayer in public schools. This is a peculiar argument, when you consider that Limbaugh is quite willing to stretch the Second Amendment to include the right to own assault rifles and Saturday night specials.
14. Harvard now takes the position that its investments in urban development projects will be limited to projects that are environmentally friendly. Before you conclude that this is such a swell idea, stop and think. For a long time, Harvard was one of the biggest slumlords in the country.
15. Dear Editor, I read with amusement the letter by Leslie Burr titled "It's time to get tough." Did anyone else notice a little problem in her views? It seems a little odd that somebody who claims that she "loathes violence" could also say that "criminals should pay with their life." I guess consistency isn't Ms. Burr's greatest concern.
16. Jim: "Look at this. It says here that white males still earn a lot more than minorities and women for doing the same job." John: "Yeah, right. Written by some woman, no doubt."
17. Steve Thompson of the California Medical Association said document-checking might even take place in emergency rooms. That's because, while undocumented immigrants would be given emergency care, not all cases that come into emergency rooms fall under the federal definition of an emergency. To all those arguments initiative proponents say hogwash. They say the education and health groups opposing the initiative are interested in protecting funding they receive for providing services to the undocumented.
18. There were 750,000 people in New York's Central Park recently for Earth Day. They were throwing frisbees, flying kites, and listening to Tom Cruise talk about how we have to recycle everything and stop corporations from polluting. Excuse me. Didn't Tom Cruise make a stock-car movie in which he destroyed thirty-five cars, burned thousands of gallons of gasoline, and wasted dozens of tires? If I were given the opportunity, I'd say to Tom Cruise, "Tom, most people don't own thirty-five cars in their life, and you just thrashed thirty-five cars for a movie. Now you're telling other people not to pollute the planet? Shut up, sir."

- Rush Limbaugh