

Name: _____

_____ / 10 points

THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

QUIZ 1

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES I-7



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define *Ad Hominem*. Is the truth of a proposition affected by the character of the speaker?
2. If you're writing a paper (or reading one), list at least five criteria that can help you determine whether an authority is relevant or not?

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Gillette: "If there's a lumberjack with a manly jaw using our brand of razor, it must work."
4. Shark: "You lions disgust me. Preying on the weak of the Serengeti is a grievous wrong."
Lion: "What's the big deal? You do it too."
5. Friend: "You can't tell me I shouldn't watch this when *you're* such a pious dweeb."

6. Son: “I can’t believe you won’t let me buy a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, Mom. It’s because you’re a woman, isn’t it?”
7. Presbyterian: “Our children shouldn’t read *The Lord of the Rings* because, after all, Tolkien was a Roman Catholic.”
8. “Unless you apologize to me, I’ll post scurrilous reviews of all your products on the Web.”

Name: _____

_____ / 10 points

THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

QUIZ 2

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 8-14



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Should how you feel about something determine whether you believe it? What if your opponent is offended by your argument?
2. You might think a Chronological Snob is *too* critical, but perhaps you should start thinking of Chronological Snobbery as being too *uncritical*. Explain why and Compose an example.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. "To be scrupulously honest, having regular quizzes really causes Mrs. Beauregard's class to suffer as far as recreation is concerned and should be discontinued."

4. Small, sneaky dinosaurs still exist in some jungles of the world. Most of the jungle is unexplored, and no studies have shown dinosaurs couldn't exist in such a habitat.
5. I can't believe a perfectly loving God could send people to Hell.
6. Grocer: "A lot of people are buying dry goods because they believe the world is going to end in A.D. 2000. I mean, it's Y2K!"
7. Intolerista: "If you don't publicly endorse egalitarianism, we will be forced to show the whole town how bigoted you are by means of tell-all flyers."
8. I personally find it hard to believe that candidate because of his previous, opposite voting record.

Name: _____

_____ / 20 points

TEST 1: FALLACIES OF DISTRACTION

ADORABLE FALLACIES I–I7



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Is it ever okay to respond to a rebuke with “but you do it, too”? Explain.
2. Define Straw Man. Please, please tell us how you can make sure you’re not misrepresenting your opponent’s position. Can you think of a way you could positively guarantee that you’re not?
3. How many of the arguments from this section could be called Red Herrings? Explain how *Iipse Dixit* and Special Pleading each fit the definition of a Red Herring.
4. Give a potentially proper response to *all* examples of Irrelevant Thesis.

5. Invent your own example of the *Ad Baculum* fallacy.

6. Compose an example of a fallacious appeal to pity.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

7. Professor: “I’m unsure if you persist in declaring this book to be poorly written because of your aesthetically stunted education or because of some deep-seated loathing for modern authors.”

8. Ballet virtuoso Petrovina Kalishnakov can put all her (albeit very small) weight upon one toe and then hop about like a kangaroo. Surely she knows what travel agency I should use for my Russia trip!

9. You should probably reverse your policy. Two thousand individual tweets demand it.

10. Parent: “I know kids shouldn’t eat too much sugar, but I think the yearly county fair is a pretty reasonable exception.”

11. Evolutionist: “My creationist colleagues disagree with my findings because they hate experiments and the scientific method, which is obviously laughable.”

12. Elder: “The Apostle Paul’s admonition to ‘stand firm in the faith and act like men’ deeply offends some guys in our congregation who dislike conflict. Please don’t preach on 1 Cor. 16:13.”

13. Reporter: “How could you think we can’t afford a war? People who think those terrorists are justified should be jailed.”

14. Pro-choicer: “How could you say you’re pro-life? Against abortion but against gun control?!”

Name: _____

_____ / 10 points

THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

QUIZ 3

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 18-25



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define Equivocation. A friend tells you that you're not allowed to tell him to stop swearing, because the Bible says love your neighbor, even if they sin against you. What tricky thing is going on with the word "love"?
2. Say your friend asks you this loaded question: "Was rebuking me to make yourself feel more holy worth it?" Identify the "ambiguous" hidden premise.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. "Oh, I wouldn't say I disagree with the Apostle Paul. I just find him inaccurate for modern readers in a couple high-profile areas."
4. Look. Student debt plus lots of fashion purchases don't add up to a successful college experience.

5. David is no Christian hero, he's a liar: He had a guy killed and yet he has the audacity to say he's blameless before God (Ps. 18:23).
6. The Asian bird flu *hit* New York? HOW BIG IS THIS THING?
7. Daughter: "Are you wearing *that* on your date with Mom?"
Dad: "Hey!"
Daughter: "What? I just asked if that's what you were wearing."
8. The Neighborhood Watch prevents crime in many communities across the US, and the same principle should replace the standing army for national defense.

Name: _____

_____ / 20 points

TEST 2: FALLACIES OF AMBIGUITY

ADORABLE FALLACIES 18-28



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. What is selectively arranged about the following: “I can’t believe God had every poor little Amalekite executed! He should be prosecuted for war crimes (if He existed).”
2. “You haven’t confessed Jesus as your Lord. You’re about to die, and it will be too late after that. Talk to me.” Is this the fallacy of Exigency? Explain.
3. List the two different (effective) ways you can respond to a Loaded Question such as “Have you stopped wasting time during all your classes?”
4. When does “repetition of a key point” become the fallacy of Repetition? Compose an example.

5. Invent your own example of Composition.
6. Compose an example of a fallacious Distinction without a Difference.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

7. We don't have an oven to bake a chocolate cake, but if we just eat eggs, sugar, flour, baking soda, and chocolate chips, it should all work out in our stomachs, right?
8. Repeated every ten minutes on TV: "Get Slice-Holderz now! Everyone needs a triangular plastic container on a neck-lanyard to hold an extra piece of pizza for later!"
9. After the Superbowl: "Slice-Holderz will only be available for 24 more hours! What more could you want to know? BUY NOW."
10. Imhotep is a decent contractor. His most recent step pyramid at least was built without breaches of public safety or illegal immigrants on the job site.
11. Detective: "Look, the butler had means, motive, and opportunity. At least question the guy."
12. Kid: "I love how pure punk rock is. Motivated solely by the desire to address societal injustice!"
Kid 2: "Um, the Clash are the most famous punk band, and they are stinkin' rich."
Kid 1: "The *Clash*? I wasn't talking about sell-out punk rock, dummy."

13. “Enron’s CEO was caught insider-trading. Don’t hire her—she was working at Enron during all that!”
14. “Christians are equal before Christ (Gal. 3:28). Don’t you dare try to get me to follow your example.”

Name: _____

_____ / 8 points

THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

QUIZ 4

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 29–31



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. A very common attack on Christianity is that the argument *God exists, because the Bible says so, and we believe the Bible because God says it's true* is begging the question at its worst. Is it? Why or why not?
2. Define *Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc*. What three criteria do you need to meet to demonstrate “causation”?

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Christians are horrible geologists. Are any intellectually rigorous professors of geology Christians?
4. Sister: “Mom! Brother exited carrying a permanent marker, and lo! inside the room, my Breyer horse was marked up. He’s guilty.”

5. The Christian church experienced huge growth after Nero was emperor. Nero must have helped a lot of Christians!
6. The more birthdays my grandpa celebrates, the less he feels like running marathons. So I'm not having a party for him this year.

Name: _____

_____ / 8 points

THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

QUIZ 5

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 3 2-3 5



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Write an example of Affirming the Consequent.
2. A bifurcation takes the form of a dilemma (*If P then Q. If R then S. P or R. Therefore, Q or S.*), which is a valid argument form. So what is it about bifurcation that makes it fallacious?

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.
4. Look. International diplomacy is about getting stuff done. The Panamanians don't want a canal. The USA does want a canal. Just dig it halfway and call it good.

5. Teddy: “If my Panama initiative is effective, I shall either get malaria or typhus. I got malaria (but not typhus), so my policy really did work!”
6. I won't be coming beaver-trapping with you. After all, going to the Rockies often equals getting attacked by grizzlies. So if I don't trap beavers in the Rockies, I won't get attacked by a grizzly.

Name: _____

_____ / 8 points

THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

QUIZ 6

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 36–38



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Is it the Slippery Slope fallacy when your dermatologist tells you that if you don't start showering, you will lose all your friends? Discuss.
2. Identify the form that an argument from analogy takes. When does such an argument from analogy break down into a fallacy?

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Baker: "Don't dump our bakery's hazardous frosting waste into the pond. It will destroy local ecosystems by killing or mutating all the frogs and algae."
4. Clean off your bifocals: the strong beat the weak. What possible objection could you have to junior-high football without age limits?

5. A pet bull who gored someone without provocation should be killed, just like a human murderer.
6. Soccer Dad: "I'm gonna try a bicycle kick off the curb! Don't stop me! Did Klaus Fischer hold back in the 1982 World Cup?"

Name: _____

_____ / 20 points

TEST 3: FALLACIES OF FORM

ADORABLE FALLACIES 29-40



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Discuss vigorously and at length: Should we ever reason using induction?
2. A modernist would say metaphors are essentially meaningless: scientific accuracy alone offers real truth. A postmodernist would say anything can be a metaphor for anything else. Who is correct and why?
3. Discuss: Can a person deduce what ought to be from is?
4. Compare and contrast the fallacies of compromise and bifurcation.

5. Write your own Slippery Slope fallacy.
6. Compose an example of a fallacious Bifurcation.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

7. The fact that so many dead pelagic red crabs have coated are beaches points to carbon emissions once again. If concerned citizens don't respond by biking more and promoting climate awareness, all sea life could be dead in a few centuries.
8. Senator: "My opinion has changed on abortion. You can't argue with what's happened."
9. After our contractor was paid it turned out he had insulated our living room with mud. I'll never trust another human being again.
10. College kid: "I have to give the thief my social security number. He's older than me, and the Bible says to honor your elders."
11. Boy: "I wanted his lunch, so I took it. Samson killed and spoiled Philistines, didn't he?"
12. "I'm not sure you should join in on that Facebook debate. The Bible says not to answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him (Prov. 26:4)."
13. This book must be good writing, because a critic liked it, and if it's well-written, critics will like it.
14. Bully: "Play football or join the nerd herd. Choose, four-eyes!"

Name: _____

_____ / 10 points

THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

QUIZ 7

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 41-47



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define Cool-Shame. Then list three fallacies with attributes that Cool-Shaming borrows.
2. Define Hooked on a Feeling. List two previous fallacies with attributes that it borrows.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Junior-high student: "I know I'm watching this dreck with my mouth shut, but they picked the movie and I wouldn't want to offend them by mocking it and doing something else."
4. If you fight against nationwide welfare and helping the poor, you're unfit to join the real leadership of America—those who are boldly transgressing all future horizons.

5. Church Communication Consultants: “Less than one half of teenagers questioned think church is cool. We need an ecclesiastical image summit immediately!”
6. Christian: “I know working hard at school would increase my mental abilities, but I just don’t feel like putting in the effort. In the moment, I never feel like it.”
7. “What do you mean, what do the lyrics ‘mean’? Couldn’t you hear the bitter cry of the artist’s soul as she rapped? Asking for meaning is so pedantic.”
8. Policy-makers who argue that recycling is ineffective and expensive are unbelievable. Haven’t they seen the poor people in Central America wading through rivers clogged with unrecycled trash, just looking for their next meal?

Name: _____

_____ / 20 points

TEST 4: MILLENNIAL FALLACIES

ADORABLE FALLACIES 41–50



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define Sensitivity Shamming. When *should* you watch out for someone's feelings? Back up your answer with the Bible.
2. "Some facts are opinions." True or false? Discuss.
3. Which groups of people only see meaning in values? Which only see meaning in facts? Do any groups accurately see meaning in both?
4. Oftentimes, you'll realize you're being spocked when you keep patiently answering heaps of objections and your opponent's conclusion doesn't change in the slightest. This process should remind you of two fallacies of distraction: what are they?

5. Write your own Cool-Shame fallacy.
6. Compose an example of a Hooked on a Feeling fallacy.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

7. Truth does not stand or fall on its own. A journey has more truth value than a fact.
8. “I dislike how my salary compares to your salary. We should have state-government-mandated annual bonuses for mid-level employees.”
9. “I don’t believe the Bible because of miracles. And hypocrites. And the Rapture. And end-times prophets. And circumcision. Etc.”
10. PP CEO: “We aren’t concerned with money when killing babies! Prove it.”
CMP: “Um . . . here are profit-motivated statements by ten of your top-tier employees.”
PP CEO: “You’re wrong. Closing us down will hurt women! Prove otherwise.”
11. Christian guy: “It’s wrong for the Church to want the national government alone to take care of the poor. But that’s just my opinion and shouldn’t bind anyone’s conscience.”
12. Christian guy: “You shouldn’t preach that being a practicing homosexual is a sin—lots of gay people are regularly discriminated against by Christians, and if they heard you preaching that, they’ll only be driven farther from Jesus.”

13. Informed Christian guy: “I’m not going to converse politely about the issues with the counterprotester I’m standing next to at the rally because I’m too nervous.”

14. Political Christian guy: “Well, I think he’s the best candidate we’ve seen in a couple election cycles, but the Greater Rodomontade Poll says he hasn’t got a popsicle’s chance in August. I guess I won’t vote for him.”

Name: _____

_____ / 30 points

THE AMAZING DR. RANSOM'S COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 1-50



COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. The Amazing Doctor Ransom divide his fallacies into four kingdoms. List and briefly describe the most important thing about each category.
2. In an argument, who has the burden of proof? Explain how the fallacies of *Ad Ignorantiam* and Moving the Goalposts affect the burden of proof.
3. Compare and contrast the fallacies of Special Pleading, No True Scotsman, and Sweeping Generalization.
4. Should we ever reason using induction? Give an example of a strong inductive argument. Then, make that strong argument weak by tweaking a few details.

5. Write your own properly fallacious False Analogy.
6. Write your own drill-bit-nosed Bulverism.
7. Write a legitimate slippery slope (*not* a fallacy).
8. Write a legitimate appeal to force (*not* a fallacy).
9. List two of the Amazing Doctor Ransom's fallacies that you have observed on your own in the wild, and where you observed them, and what the people they ruled were saying.
10. What are your two favorite fallacies that you've learned? Why? Write the name of the creatures themselves for extra credit.

IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

11. Atheist: “Jesus Christ exists? He is as real as my deity of choice, the Flying Spaghetti Monster. (The characteristic that they both share is that they’re both invented, of course.)”
12. It’s not that Aunt Cindy gives bad presents, it’s just that nobody wants a handknitted sweater that is tight around the waist and saggy on the shoulders.
13. The longer the French custom of two-hour lunch breaks during the work week has persisted, the more their culture has wilted. Coincidence? I think not.
14. “Cicero’s views on morality are actually quite informative for today’s citizens. After all, he was writing more about two thousand years before today’s silly ethicists were even born.”
15. Christopher Reeve: “When matters of public policy are debated [as with embryonic stem cell research], no religions should have a seat at the table.”
16. Planned Parenthood has had unsupportable ties with eugenicists since its founder, Margaret Sanger, collaborated with so-called “Negro Project” originator W.E.B. DuBois.
17. The reason I’m failing Latin class is that my teacher just wants me to stop speaking English for the rest of my life and move to Italy. Needless to say, that’s ridiculous—I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free.
18. Civic Theorist: “A government’s sole purpose is the welfare of its citizens. From that simple premise it’s a logical step to a welfare system for those without jobs nationwide.”
19. Vegan: “Don’t eat burgers if you wouldn’t eat your neighbor.”
20. Supreme Court Justice Kennedy says two men can be married. I think the definition is settled.