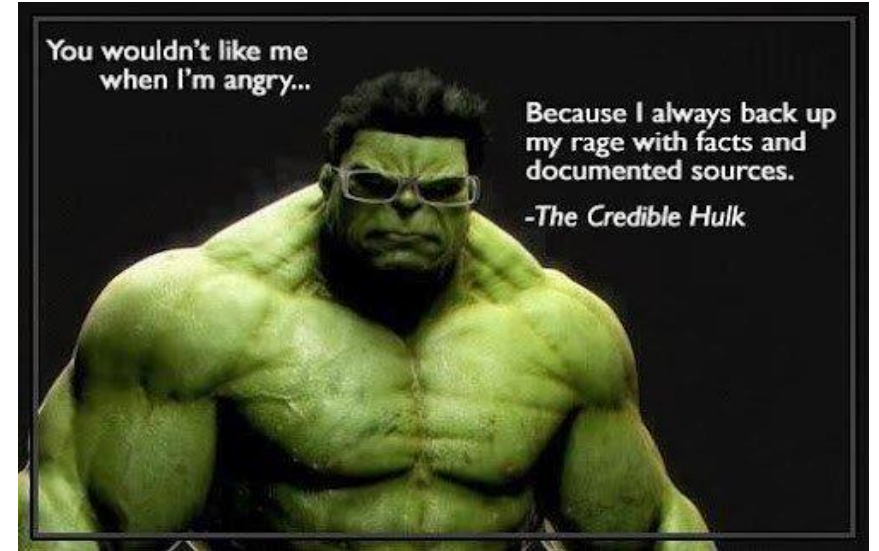


Logical Fallacies

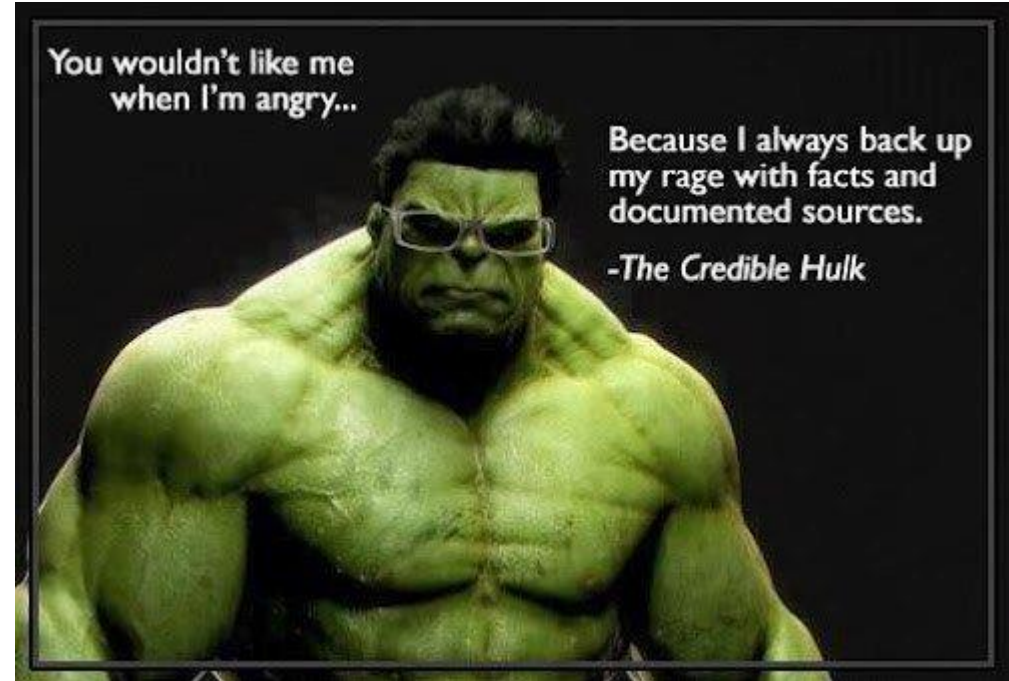
How to Develop Your Argument Skills

Fallacies are common errors in reasoning that will undermine your argument's logic.



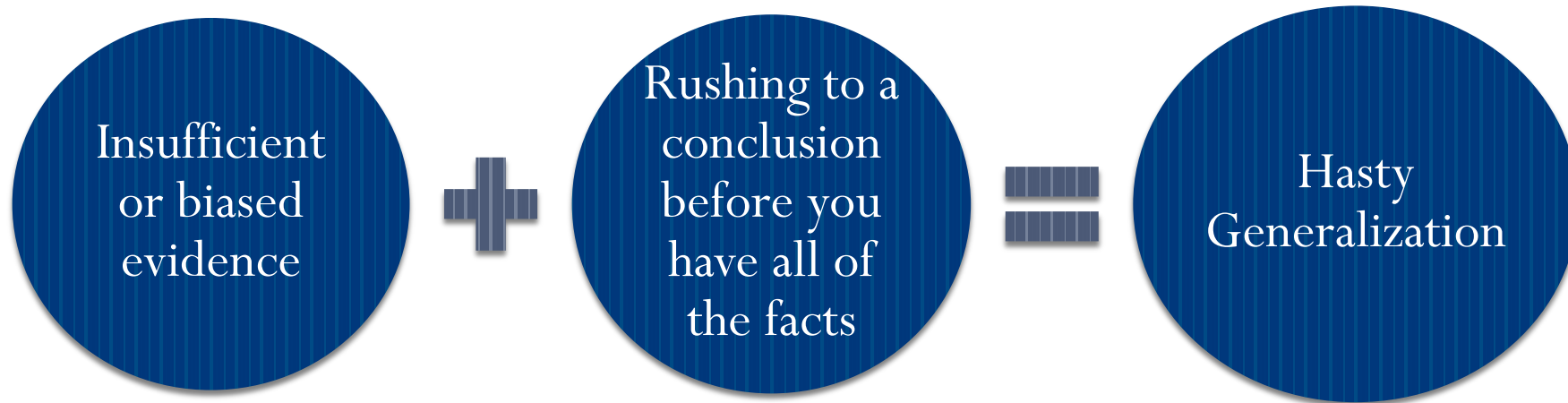
Exercise 1:

Go to the **Logical Fallacies Activity Sheet** and, using the criteria on the previous slide, answer the following question: *Have you ever used a fallacy before and lost an argument? Have you ever tried to argue with someone who was only speaking in logical fallacies? Provide examples.*



Common Logical Fallacies: Hasty Generalization

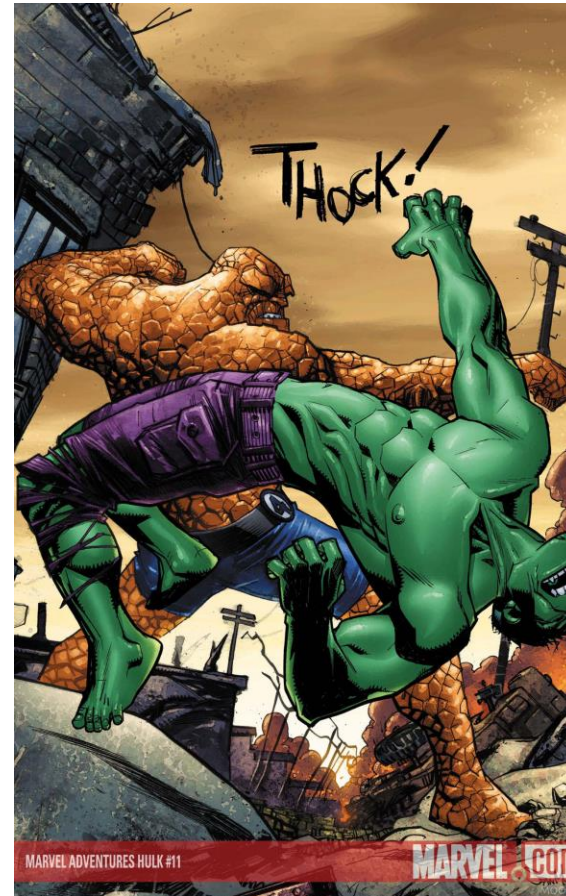
- **Hasty Generalization:** a conclusion based on insufficient or biased evidence. When a speaker uses a hasty generalization, they are rushing to a conclusion before they have all the relevant facts.



Common Logical Fallacies: Hasty Generalization

Go back to the Logical Fallacies Exercise Sheet and answer the following question:

- The hulk and the thing fight a lot. Often they start throwing punches before they even speak to each other.
- Explain how their fights are always a result of a logical fallacy (hasty generalization).



Common Logical Fallacies: Circular Argument

- **Circular Argument:** A circular argument restates the argument rather than proving it.
 - **Example 1:** *Only people who are in good shape can run fast. Running fast gets people in good shape.*
 - **Example 2:** *I can spend money because I have a credit card. I need a credit card so I can spend money.*

Common Logical Fallacies: Circular Argument

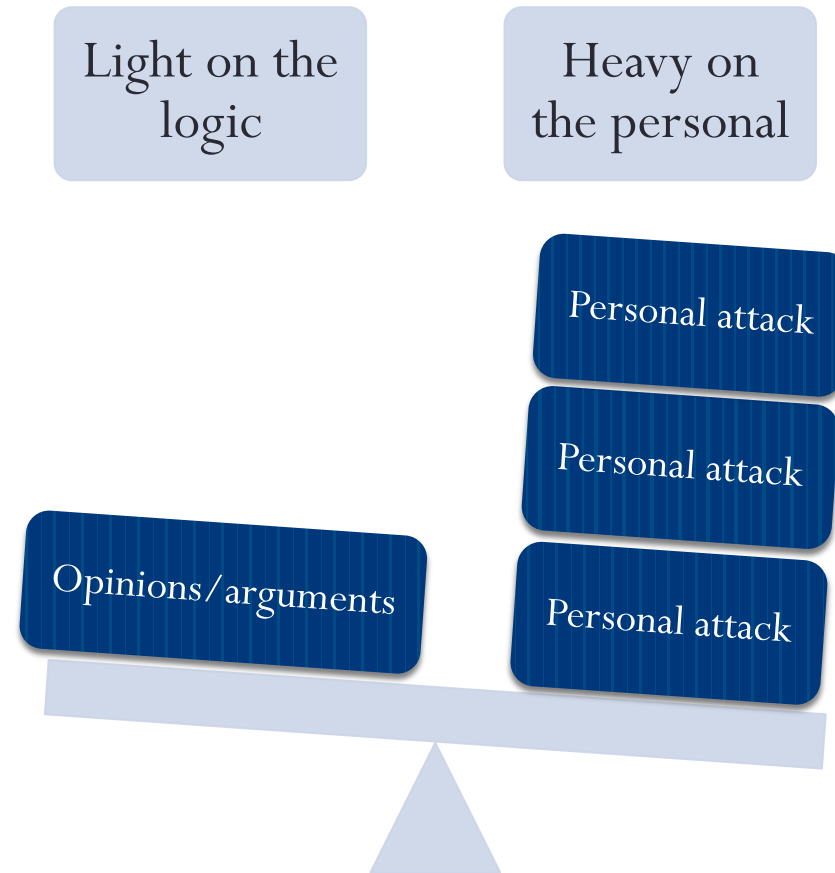
Go back to the Logical Fallacies Exercise Sheet and answer the following question:

- How does the Dilbert cartoon below illustrate a circular argument?



Common Logical Fallacies: Ad Hominem Attack

- **Ad Hominem Attack:** An ad hominem attacks a person's character rather than his or her opinions or arguments.
- [Click here for an example.](#)



Common Logical Fallacies: Ad Hominem Attack

Go back to the Logical Fallacies

Exercise Sheet and answer the

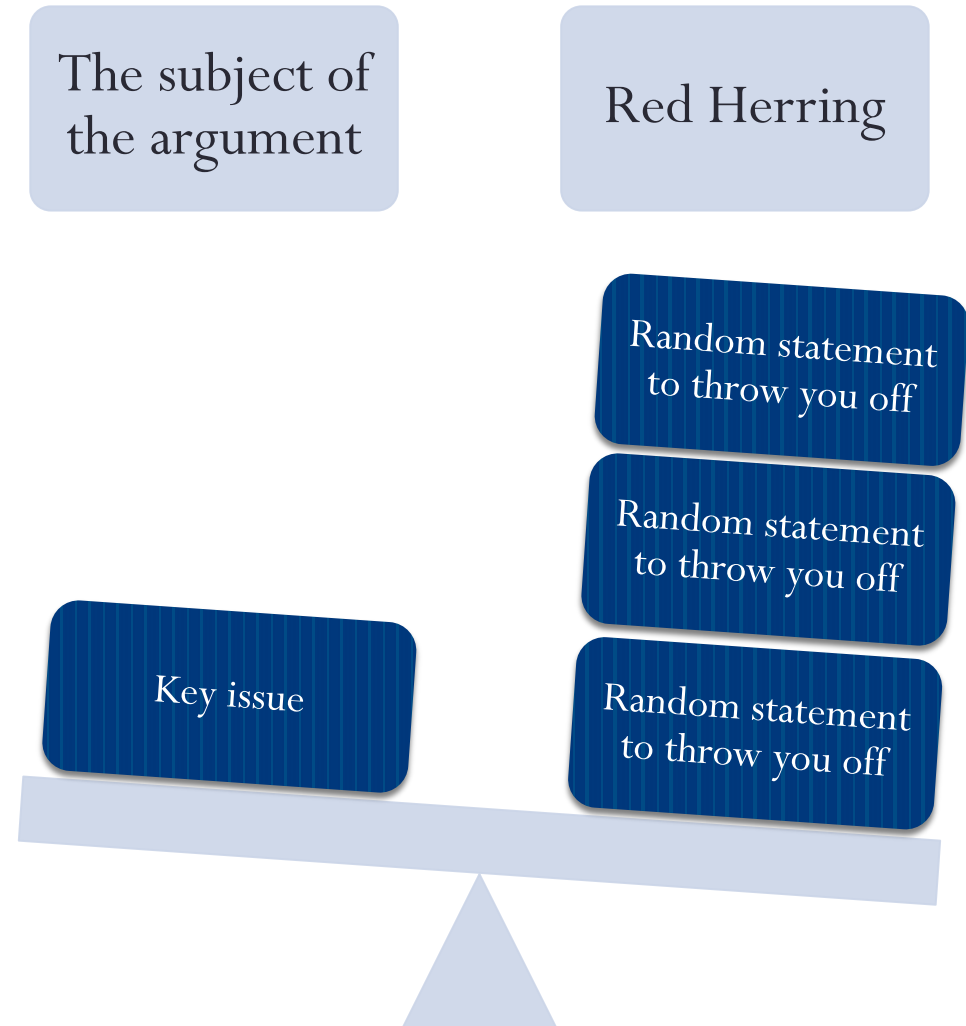
following question:

- What kind of tone or mood can *ad hominem attacks* set? Develop a hypothesis as to why you think *ad hominem attacks* weaken an argument.



Common Logical Fallacies: Red Herring

Red Herring: A diversionary tactic that avoids the key issue(s), often by avoiding opposing arguments rather than addressing them.



Common Logical Fallacies: Red Herring

Go back to the Logical Fallacies

Exercise Sheet and answer the

following question:

- The man on this billboard is the notorious unabomber, known for putting bombs in people's mailboxes that would explode when the mailboxes were opened. Explain how the billboard about global warming uses the *red herring* logical fallacy.



Exercise 3

Go back to the Logical Fallacies Exercise Sheet and complete the following assignment:

- Find an example of one the logical fallacies you just learned about (hasty generalization, circular argument, ad hominem attack, red herring) in music or on social media. Then, construct an argument as to how the logical fallacy impacts that speaker's argument.

In conclusion...

- **Why is it so important to understand logical fallacies when developing or evaluating an argument?**
 - Identifying logical fallacies can help you strengthen your arguments in your writing.
 - Pointing out a logical fallacy can help you win an argument.
 - Want to back up your point? Trying to prove something? Find a way to prove your opponent's counterpoint is a logical fallacy.
 - Avoid logical fallacies in your own writing. Logical fallacies do not strengthen an argument, they only make it weaker.

Sources

- Information about logical fallacies retrieved from:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/659/03/>