

Phil 1504: Language and Logic

Quiz #2, take-home portion on biases

This is due at the start of your recitation section, on Friday, March 3rd.

Consider the conversation below and then answer the two questions that follow...

Uncle Bob: Damn Obama, now he's trying to cut federal funds to North Carolina because of the limits on transgender access to bathrooms.

You: I'm unsure what the objection is exactly. It may be true that Obama should not revise the federal budget without Congressional approval—that could be an overreach of executive power. Or are you really just protesting the trans community?

Uncle Bob: Kid, you're too young to know how things really work. I've seen this kind of thing a hundred times before—whenever moral values are attacked, things go haywire. Guaranteed. If you were my age, you'd see exactly what's happening.

1. Plausibly, Uncle Bob is exhibiting at least one cognitive bias. Tell me which bias or biases from our handout is being exhibited, and be sure to **justify** your answer.
2. Given your diagnosis, how could you respond to Bob in order to create a calmer, more productive atmosphere for discussion? Use the Cognitive Biases handout on the Ideal Setting for Inquiry, as well as any other remedies you might think of. And be sure to explain **why** your response might help relax the situation. (The total length of your answer here should be about a paragraph or two.) NOTE: I am not requiring you to take a specific stance on the political issue being discussed. I am just concerned to see how you would diffuse the tension, in order to discuss productively the various stances one might take.