

Homework #2:

Due at classtime on **Wednesday March 1st**, in the lecture room.

For each of the following arguments, please tell me which fallacy it commits and **why**.

1. As I travel around and talk to people I find that many do not even know what genetic engineering is. Well, genetic engineering is best defined as the most recent in a long line of attempts, on the part of human beings, to play God. Of course, the proponents of genetic engineering overlook just one little fact: We humans are not God. And that's why genetic engineering is profoundly immoral.
2. Dr. Herzheimer has written essays criticizing self-help books from the standpoint of logic and science. I realize Dr. Herzheimer is a famous philosopher, but I think it's immature and cold-hearted to criticize people who are trying to help others get their lives together. Thus I myself give no credence to Dr. Herzheimer's work whatsoever.
3. Intelligent, refined people insist on the best wines. And our Old World Merlot is the best red wine available. Obviously, Old World Merlot is for you.
4. Smoking cigarettes can harm one's health. So it's best to avoid smoking assuming one wants to be healthy.
5. Without the discoveries of the great physicist Albert Einstein, the atomic bomb could not have been invented. But Einstein said that it was immoral for America to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Therefore, it was immoral for America to drop the bomb on Hiroshima.
6. After centuries of trying, no one has been able to prove the existence of God. And how they've tried! Some philosophers have devoted their lives to it. So a reasonable person must conclude that God does not exist.
7. God is love. Love is a human emotion. Therefore, God is a human emotion.
8. I should receive an 'A' in this class. After all, if I don't get an 'A' I won't get into the law school that I want.
9. Obviously, humans have free will, since they have the power to make choices.
10. If I have a strong desire to believe that theism is true, then I have a motive for believing theism. And if I have a motive for believing theism, then I have a reason for believing theism. And if I have a reason for believing theism, then I have evidence for believing theism. Therefore, if I have a strong desire to believe that theism is true, then I have evidence for believing theism.