

Worksheet Exercise 5.2.

Name _____

Fallacies of Irrelevance

Class _____ Date _____

Identify the fallacies that are committed in the following passages. Some passages may fit more than one fallacy, but just pick one. Write your answer in the blank provided.

1. The alarmists have not been able to show that hormone-enhanced foods are detrimental to our health, so we should take advantage of this new technology to produce large quantities of necessary foods.

2. This guy knows what he is talking about. He received his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, he has written a dozen books on international law, and makes tons of money on his international lecture tours. I predict his views on the effects of electric shock therapy will be widely accepted.

3. If the Senator will not support my bill, he should be reminded that no other group has opposed my bill except for the Democratic Anarchists Union.

4. We should not listen to music composed by Richard Wagner. After all, Wagner was Adolf Hitler's favorite composer.

5. These poor children have no shoes, have no food, have no roofs over their heads, no one to care for them. Your contribution to our organization can help these needy children. Please open your hearts.

6. Our product is very special, and it has received a lot of attention lately. Many Hollywood celebrities have tried and liked it. Our product cost more than some people can afford, but it is worth every penny.

7. It is in no way important that countries like France and Russia strongly objected to our military action in Iraq. After all, these countries acted only out of their own self-interest in this matter.

8. It is false that capitalism is an unjust institution. It was Lenin who claimed that it was unjust, but he was a Red Communist.

9. You want us to ban billboards on state land along public tollroads. You probably want to eliminate the tolls as well! But road tolls are a proper way for states to collect taxes. States have a constitutional right to collect money, and your proposal is completely wrong.

10. You say this bill illegally favors large, rich corporations and violates federal anti-trust laws, and that we should vote against it. You realize, of course, the implications of what you are saying. If we don't pass this bill, these corporations will move to another state, and we will lose millions of tax dollars; and many proposals, including your own proposal to support local community businesses, will have to be scrapped.
