

**Worksheet Exercise 5.4.A.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fallacies of Presumption

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Part A.** 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. Abundant nuclear energy is not an acceptable goal, because that would require thousands of nuclear facilities all over the country, which in turn would lead to many radiation disasters, and hundreds of thousands of deaths.

---

2. People necessarily act in accordance with what they desire, and what they desire is necessarily beyond their control. So, this proves that people are never free in their actions.

---

3. An atheist should believe that there is no distinction between right and wrong. This follows from the fact that either there is a God, and what is right and wrong follows from divine laws, or there is no God, and there is no possibility of a basis for any moral distinction.

---

4. Many colleges and universities have experienced large increases in student enrollments in recent years. And especially at our own university the increase has been quite dramatic — double the usual number. We were surprised by this increase because we had all been assuming that our admissions office had not been able to make additional efforts due to cutbacks in their staff. But that assumption was clearly wrong given the increased enrollments. We conclude that the admissions staff members must have doubled their efforts, and that they must have secretly worked many hours of overtime. What dedication! They all deserve a big merit raise.

---

5. In this war, you are either with us or against us. Your objections to our strenuous efforts in waging this war show that you are not with us. So, you are against us in this war.

---

6. You say that a divine being created the universe. That's impossible, because no individual being can create something like the universe.

---

7. We urge you to agree with our assessment that traditional methods of instruction need a complete overhaul. Pointless accumulation of facts, mind-numbing exercises, and excessive adherence to older views have no place in a correct educational curriculum.

---

8. We must save the species of Yellowbacked Grand Valley minnows at all costs. Violations of ecological conservation measures such as this one will one day lead to disastrous global ecological consequences. We have to hold the line.

---