

**Worksheet Exercise 5.4.B.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

All Fallacies Considered

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

**Part B.** Identify the fallacies that are committed in the following passages. These fallacies include any of the fallacies of Relevance, of Misconstrual, or Presumption. Some passages may fit more than one fallacy, but just pick one. Write your answer in the blank provided.

1. The project proposed by this scholar promises to be an analytical *tour de force*, a project that analytically defines and substantially inter-relates all the major concepts that comprise this field, which for years people were incapable of doing. This project will establish this field as a science in its own right. In a previous book, the same scholar was very successful in analyzing one of those concepts. So, some of the analysis has already been done, and we can expect success for the overall project.

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2. We should definitely contribute money to the senator's campaign. She is, we know, a great Country singer, and the *National Enquirer* said that the senator had almost no money left, and that she had to sell the memorabilia of her dear grandmother, herself a great Hollywood actress, just to keep the campaign alive.

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3. My opponent said that we should provide state funds for new treatment programs for mental illness, even if that means that we need to levy new taxes for that. I suppose that means we should create new taxes to fund all sorts of programs, for example, contemporary music appreciation. But a new tax for that is inexcusable. We cannot go down that road. My opponent is wrong.

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4. Our candidate is unknown to you all, and that is why we want to introduce him to the people of this state. The first thing to notice is that no one has ever publicly said anything negative about our candidate. That is very important, because he is the only one in this whole primary of whom you can say this. Every one else is being attacked on all sides -- but not our candidate. He is a real winner.

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5. I don't know how he does it, but the President obviously controls the entire oil industry. The price per barrel of oil was going through the roof, so he announced that he was lifting the presidential embargo on off-shore oil drilling, and within a few days the price of oil fell 25%. That is amazing.

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6. We must not provide public funds to Public Television stations that show programs with sexual content. People don't want their children to see repulsive, degrading, offensive, pornographic depictions on regular TV channels during family hours. So, why should we spend their tax dollars to fund such programs?

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7. Please pay attention to what is happening. This candidate is not who you think he is. Just look at the people that he deals with. All of them are radicals. Those people are against everything that you and I stand for and believe in. If you support this candidate, you are supporting them too. You must reconsider.
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8. All human beings have an absolute, inalienable right to life. But, one cannot have it both ways. One cannot say, on the one hand, that all human beings have an absolute, inalienable right to life, and on the other hand, that elected or appointed officials have the right and obligation to kill people in certain cases. Therefore, the death penalty must be abolished in this country.
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9. Religion should be abolished. One need only consider the many horrors of the wars fought in the name of religion that have occurred throughout history. That is what religion brings about. Humanity can do much better without it.
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10. The following is a sound model regarding the relationship of morality and legal rights. In short, personal moral views cannot infringe on public, legal rights. That is to say, while many people personally believe that abortion is morally wrong, such personal conviction may not infringe on the rights of other people. Therefore, according to law, people have the right to have an abortion. The moral convictions of others may not infringe on this right.
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11. The Mayor is concerned about your disagreement with the rest of the Planning Commission regarding the upcoming proposal. The Mayor has always stressed the importance of being a team player, and it now it looks like you are not a team player. But I think you understand how important it is for you not to look like you're not a team player. Well, I am glad we cleared that up.
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12. Commentators argue that the extreme violence in movies and television has caused a great increase in murders in our society. But that is ridiculous. Movies don't kill people — people kill people.
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13. Well, of course, there is a purpose for our existence. Look around you: there is a purpose for birds to have wings, for pens to have ink, for ships to have sails, for cars to have wheels, for flowers to smell, for the sun to shine. There is a purpose for everything.
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14. The Green movement is irresponsible. Consider the matter of global warming. The Green advocates claim that the increased carbon dioxide emissions produced by our present technology and industry is causing the global temperature to rise. But it is a known fact that the Earth's temperature has risen in past ages through only natural, geological causes, and these advocates cannot prove that the present rise in temperature is not due to such natural geological causes.
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