

Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF) within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 4 - Snippet 108

Fallacies - Irrelevant reasons

This fallacy is similar to the false cause fallacy in so far as there is a flaw in the causality and the premises don't sufficiently support the claim. But in the case of the irrelevant reasons fallacy the reason is unrelated to the conclusion. The argument would include premises which could certainly be true but don't support or falsify the conclusion since the premises and the conclusion aren't related.

You may encounter this kind of (non-) reasoning if someone wants to distract from an issue which is not convenient; for example, if someone wants to distract from the fact that there isn't enough evidence or that he/she doesn't know enough for supporting or falsifying a hypothesis.

Comic from [Crimes Against Hugh's Manatees](http://crimesagainsthughsmantees.tumblr.com/image/145134666967) by Hugh D. Crawford, <http://crimesagainsthughsmantees.tumblr.com/image/145134666967>, licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/), retrieved 15 March 2018

