

## Exercise on Arguments and Fallacies

Read each of the following, determine whether it is an argument. If it is, determine whether it fits the descriptions of any of the fallacies you have been studying, explaining how it fits that description if it does. Remember that it may fit more than one. If no fallacy is being committed, write "none."

a. George Bush says he hears the quiet people others don't. I've got a friend in LA who hears the quiet people others don't, and he's got to take a lot of medication.

Albert Brooks

b. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons wants \$315 million for fiscal 1992 for construction to relieve major overcrowding. The situation is so serious that convicts routinely have to share cells, and - Wait a minute. What exactly is wrong with prisoners having to share cells? College kids share dorm rooms; troops in Saudi Arabia share tents; crazy young people in Manhattan share studio apartments. Who says you get to pay your debt to society in a private room?

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c. American soldiers are all eager to return to the Persian Gulf, I've talked with over a half-dozen of them, and every one of them said so.

d. I like New York. It seems like a wonderful city to me; I'm enjoying myself a lot.

e. Don't assume that you can get along in Japan without taking our Japanese language courses. Think of it this way: A native of Japan might be able to survive in a large American city without being able to speak English. But he'd have a rough time of it. And would he enjoy himself? Would he have any fun? Make friends? Be happy that he came? Not a chance! (Patterned after a 1960's language-school advertisement this one requires a little background information about Japan.)

f. I think that the people of the world are ready to accept the sacrifices that sound environmental Policy demands. Why, I went to a meeting last night, and almost everyone there indicated that they were ready. (Note: The meeting was a meeting of the Sierra Club)

g. Americans are ready to accept the reality of a tax hike. Why, I spoke with over half a dozen voters just today, and they all agreed that a tax hike is a necessity.

h. Two days after I took ENDCOLD tablets, my cold went away. So, I can recommend ENDCOLD tablets with confidence!

i. I enjoyed the Potluck party last night. The food was good, and I got a chance to talk with old friends.

j. We let her become Secretary of Education, and now American students' standardized test scores are going down. I told you we never should have voted for her!

k. I KNOW dogs can't be trusted: I OWN one!