

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

# QUIZ 1

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 1-7



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define *Ad Hominem*. Is the truth of a proposition affected by the character of the speaker?

*A fallacy of distraction that attacks an opponent's character when character is irrelevant to the argument. Answers will vary: Absolute truth is rooted in God's character and does not change. (The contrary is the great "argument" of postmodernism.) But a speaker or authority's character (two forms of argument from ethos) can make an audience more or less likely to believe something is true.*

2. If you're writing a paper (or reading one), list at least five criteria that can help you determine whether an authority is relevant or not?

*Answers will vary: Whether the authority is qualified: does he have the specialized expertise in the specific area under discussion which is required to support the claim? Is he impartial? Is he dishonest? Is he wrong? Is he just giving an opinion? Do other authorities agree?*

### IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Gillette: "If there's a lumberjack with a manly jaw using our brand of razor, it must work."

*Transfer*

4. Shark: "You lions disgust me. Preying on the weak of the Serengeti is a grievous wrong."

Lion: "What's the big deal? You do it too."

*none*

5. Friend: "You can't tell me I shouldn't watch this when you're such a pious dweeb."

*Ad Hominem*

6. Son: "I can't believe you won't let me buy a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, Mom. It's because you're a woman, isn't it?"

*Bulverism*

7. Presbyterian: "Our children shouldn't read *The Lord of the Rings* because, after all, Tolkien was a Roman Catholic."

*Genetic Fallacy*

8. Sure, Deacon Ambrosius occasionally helps himself to the offering box, but don't call the cops on *him*. He's our deacon!

*Special Pleading*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

# QUIZ 2

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 8-14



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Should how you feel about something determine whether you believe it? What if your opponent is offended by your argument?

*Answers will vary: Emotion and reason should each inform the other honestly. Thought cannot dominate tears, but tears cannot dominate thought, either. It's a balance. Should your opponent be offended, according to the Bible? Or are they being offended by the truth and seeking to make you back off?*

2. You might think a Chronological Snob is *too* critical, but perhaps you should start thinking of Chronological Snobbery as being *too uncritical*. Explain why and Compose an example.

*Answers will vary: ChronoSnobs are naively uncritical of their own 'blind spots' because Chronological Snobbery is "the uncritical acceptance of the intellectual climate of our own age and the assumption that whatever has gone out of date is on that count discredited."*

### IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. "To be scrupulously honest, having regular quizzes really causes Mrs. Beauregard's class to suffer (as far as recreation is concerned) and should be discontinued."

*Irrelevant Goals or Functions*

4. Small, sneaky dinosaurs still exist in some jungles of the world. Most of the jungle is unexplored, and no studies have shown dinosaurs couldn't exist in such a habitat.

*Ad Ignorantiam*

5. I can't believe a perfectly loving God could send people to Hell.

*Personal Incredulity*

6. Grocer: "A lot of people are buying dry goods because they believe the world is going to end in A.D. 2000. I mean, it's Y2K!"

*Ad Populum*

7. Intolerista: "If you don't publicly endorse egalitarianism, we will be forced to show the whole town how bigoted you are by means of tell-all flyers."

*Ad Baculum*

8. I personally find it hard to believe that candidate because of his previous, opposite voting record.

*none*

# TEST 1: FALLACIES OF DISTRACTION

ADORABLE FALLACIES I-I7



## COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Is it ever okay to respond to a rebuke with “but you do it, too”? Explain.

*Answers will vary: If the thing under discussion is not a sin, then “but you’re doing the same thing” is quite reasonable, although it is logically distinct from the arguments against drinking wine.*

2. Define Straw Man. Please, please tell us how you can make sure you’re not misrepresenting your opponent’s position. Can you think of a way you could positively guarantee that you’re not?

*A fallacy of distraction that misrepresents or hyperbolizes an opponent’s position to make it much easier to defeat. Actually read and analyze what your opponents write before you set out to defeat them. What if you actually asked your opponent if you’ve represented his position correctly?*

3. How many of the arguments from this section could be called Red Herrings? Explain how *Ipse Dixit* and *Special Pleading* each fit the definition of a Red Herring.

*Answers will vary: All sixteen previous fallacies function by distracting from the argument at hand onto something irrelevant (and potentially “more defeatable”). *Ipse Dixit* attempts to distract from a faulty argument with an authority, and *Special Pleading* is distraction by false exemption.*

4. Give a potentially proper response to *all* examples of Irrelevant Thesis.

*Answers will vary: “True, perhaps, but irrelevant.” (Dr. Jason Lisle, “Discerning Truth”)*

5. Invent your own example of the *Ad Baculum* fallacy.

*Answers will vary.*

6. Compose an example of a fallacious appeal to pity.

*Answers will vary.*

## IDENTIFICATION

*Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)*

7. Professor: "I'm unsure if you persist in declaring this book to be poorly written because of your aesthetically stunted education or because of some deep-seated loathing for modern authors."

*Bulverism*

8. Ballet virtuoso Petrovina Kalishnakov can put all her (albeit very small) weight upon one toe and then hop about like a kangaroo. Surely she knows what travel agency I should use for my Russia trip!

*Transfer*

9. You should probably reverse your policy. Two thousand individual tweets demand it.

*Ad Populum*

10. Parent: "I know kids shouldn't eat too much sugar, but I think the yearly county fair is a pretty reasonable exception."

*none*

11. Evolutionist: "My creationist colleagues disagree with my findings because they hate experiments and the scientific method, which is obviously laughable."

*Straw Man*

12. Elder: "The Apostle Paul's admonition to 'stand firm in the faith and act like men' deeply offends some guys in our congregation who dislike conflict. Please don't preach on 1 Cor. 16:13."

*Ad Misericordiam*

13. Reporter: “How could you think we can’t afford a war? People who think those terrorists are justified should be jailed.”

*Straw Man*

14. Pro-choicer: “How could you say you’re pro-life? Against abortion but against gun control?!”

*Irrelevant Thesis*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

### QUIZ 3

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 18-25



#### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define Equivocation. A friend tells you that you're not allowed to tell him to stop swearing, because the Bible says love your neighbor, even if they sin against you. What tricky thing is going on with the word "love"?

*A fallacy of ambiguity that sneakily changes a definition or sense of a key word during a discussion. The word "love" is being equivocated upon: Jesus said it, so of course we agree, but "love" changes in different contexts. What is your friend implying that "love" means in the specific contexts?*

2. Say your friend asks you this loaded question: "Was rebuking me to make yourself feel more holy worth it?" Identify the "ambiguous" hidden premise.

*The "hidden" premise is that rebuking your friend's sin was done to make yourself feel more pious (instead of the real reason: he wasn't living for Christ who has died for him).*

#### IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. "Oh, I wouldn't say I disagree with the Apostle Paul. I just find him inaccurate for modern readers in a couple high-profile areas."

*Distinction without a Difference*

4. Look. Student debt plus lots of fashion purchases don't add up to a successful college experience.

*none*

5. David is no Christian hero, he's a liar: He had a guy killed and yet he has the audacity to say he's blameless before God (Ps. 18:23).

*Equivocation*

6. The Asian bird flu *hit* New York? HOW BIG IS THIS THING?

*Amphiboly*

7. Daughter: "Are you wearing *that* on your date with Mom?"

Dad: "Hey!"

Daughter: "What? I just asked if that's what you were wearing."

*Accent*

8. The Neighborhood Watch prevents crime in many communities across the US, and the same principle should replace the standing army for national defense.

*Composition*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 20 points

## TEST 2: FALLACIES OF AMBIGUITY

ADORABLE FALLACIES 18-28



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. What is selectively arranged about the following: “I can’t believe God had every poor little Amalekite executed! He should be prosecuted for war crimes (if He existed).”

*Answers will vary: The Amalekites were a disturbingly evil and depraved culture, and besides, God is justice . He could justly kill every one of us (Eccl. 12:14).*

2. “You haven’t confessed Jesus as your Lord. You’re about to die, and it will be too late after that. Talk to me.” Is this the fallacy of Exigency? Explain.

*Answers will vary: Although not relevant to the truth value of a proposition, “you’re dying” is totally relevant to “you can’t do this later.” Not the fallacy of Exigency.*

3. List the two different (effective) ways you can respond to a Loaded Question such as “Have you stopped wasting time during all your classes?”

*Answers will vary: Oftentimes you can lean into assertion and use sarcasm to show how “loaded” the question is, or challenge the hidden premise.*

4. When does “repetition of a key point” become the fallacy of Repetition? Compose an example.

*It’s only a fallacy if someone attempts to bypass further discussion or browbeat you into agreement by means of rote repetition. Answers will vary.*

5. Invent your own example of Composition.

*Answers will vary.*

6. Compose an example of a fallacious Distinction without a Difference.

*Answers will vary.*

## IDENTIFICATION

*Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)*

7. We don't have an oven to bake a chocolate cake, but if we just eat eggs, sugar, flour, baking soda, and chocolate chips, it should all work out in our stomachs, right?

*Division*

8. Repeated every ten minutes on TV: "Get Slice-Holderz now! Everyone needs a triangular plastic container on a neck-lanyard to hold an extra piece of pizza for later!"

*Repetition*

9. After the Superbowl: "Slice-Holderz will only be available for 24 more hours! What more could you want to know? BUY NOW."

*Exigency*

10. Imhotep is a decent contractor. His most recent step pyramid at least was built without breaches of public safety or illegal immigrants on the job site.

*Selective Arrangement*

11. Detective: "Look, the butler had means, motive, and opportunity. At least question the guy."

*none*

12. Kid: "I love how pure punk rock is. Motivated solely by the desire to address societal injustice!"

Kid 2: "Um, the Clash are the most famous punk band, and they are stinkin' rich."

Kid 1: "The *Clash*? I wasn't talking about sell-out punk rock, dummy."

*No True Scotsman*

13. “Enron’s CEO was caught insider-trading. Don’t hire her—she was working at Enron during all that!”

*Division*

14. “Christians are equal before Christ (Gal. 3:28). Don’t you dare try to get me to follow your example.”

*Equivocation*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 8 points

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

# QUIZ 4

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 29-31



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. A very common attack on Christianity is that the argument *God exists, because the Bible says so, and we believe the Bible because God says it's true* is begging the question at its worst. Is it? Why or why not?

*This fallacy only applies to so-called "everyday" statements, and not to "ultimate questions." This is because at the ultimate level every worldview must assume that its own foundations are true. So, yes, it's a fallacy, but since everyone is forced to do it, it isn't. If that makes sense.*

2. Define *Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc*. What three criteria do you need to meet to demonstrate "causation"?

*A fallacy of form that assumes causation based on temporal precedence alone. {Some relationship between A & B (correlation)} + {No plausible alternative explanations for A & B} + {Temporal precedence of A to B} = {Causal relationship from A to B}*

### IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Christians are horrible geologists. Are any intellectually rigorous professors of geology Christians?

*Petitio Principii*

4. Sister: "Mom! Brother exited carrying a permanent marker, and lo! inside the room, my Breyer horse was marked up. He's guilty."

*none*

5. The Christian church experienced huge growth after Nero was emperor. Nero must have helped a lot of Christians!

*Post Hoc*

6. The more birthdays my grandpa celebrates, the less he feels like running marathons. So I'm not having a party for him this year.

*Post Hoc in Statistics*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 8 points

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

# QUIZ 5

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 3 2-3 5



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Write an example of Affirming the Consequent.

*Answers will vary: Some form of "If P then Q. Q. Therefore P."*

2. A bifurcation takes the form of a dilemma (*If P then Q. If R then S. P or R. Therefore, Q or S.*), which is a valid argument form. So what is it about bifurcation that makes it fallacious?

*The problem comes in the third premise: "P or R." In a bifurcation, option A (or B, or C, etc.) is left out, and thus "P or R" is a false premise.*

### IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

*none (Matt. 6:24), depending on application*

4. Look. International diplomacy is about getting stuff done. The Panamanians don't want a canal. The USA does want a canal. Just dig it halfway and call it good.

*Fallacy of Compromise*

5. Teddy: “If my Panama initiative is effective, I shall either get malaria or typhus. I got malaria (but not typhus), so my policy really did work!”

*Affirming the Consequent*

6. I won't be coming beaver-trapping with you. After all, going to the Rockies often equals getting attacked by grizzlies. So if I don't trap beavers in the Rockies, I won't get attacked by a grizzly.

*Denying the Antecedent*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 8 points

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

# QUIZ 6

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 36-38



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Is it the Slippery Slope fallacy when your dermatologist tells you that if you don't start showering, you will lose all your friends? Discuss.

*Answers will vary: As soon as you stop being able to demonstrate the causes of an inevitable chain of events down the slope, and just start to proclaim that the progression is inevitable, the Slipfish has got you.*

2. Identify the form that an argument from analogy takes. When does such an argument from analogy break down into a fallacy?

*A is similar to B. B has property P. Therefore, A has property P. (The deductively valid form uses universals: All A are B. All B are P. Therefore, All A are P.) It falls apart when A and B are similar, but differ in some way that changes whether they have property P or not.*

### IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Baker: "Don't dump our bakery's hazardous frosting waste into the pond. It will destroy local ecosystems by killing or mutating all the frogs and algae."

*none*

4. Clean off your bifocals: the strong beat the weak. What possible objection could you have to junior-high football without age limits?

*Naturalistic Fallacy*

5. A pet bull who gored someone without provocation should be killed, just like a human murderer.

*none*

6. Soccer Dad: "I'm gonna try a bicycle kick off the curb! Don't stop me! Did Klaus Fischer hold back in the 1982 World Cup?"

*False Analogy*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 20 points

## TEST 3: FALLACIES OF FORM

ADORABLE FALLACIES 29-40



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Discuss vigorously and at length: Should we ever reason using induction?

*Answers will vary: We must use induction every day. Actually, not being omniscient, we never truly get to the “universal” statements necessary for categorical reasoning. Just make sure it’s strong induction.*

2. A modernist would say metaphors are essentially meaningless: scientific accuracy alone offers real truth. A postmodernist would say anything can be a metaphor for anything else. Who is correct and why?

*Neither. Metaphors do have meaning (Jesus is the Word) but everything is not a metaphor for everything else (God made the world a certain way and not another).*

3. Discuss: Can a person deduce what ought to be from is?

*Yes, the Bible says that nature declares the glory of God, and since law is God’s character, we can deduce some morality from nature, and some goodness, because God is good. However “natural” law and the definition of goodness are always subordinate to God’s revealed law (the Bible). An atheist cannot reach the level of absolute as far as morality goes (though he will try): the best he’s got is an evolving societal average.*

4. Compare and contrast the fallacies of compromise and bifurcation.

*Both deal with opposing options, but the fallacies are opposites: Bifurcation falsely limits options when more are available, and false compromise adds options when either one or the other is right (or perhaps neither).*

5. Write your own Slippery Slope fallacy.

*Answers will vary.*

6. Compose an example of a fallacious Bifurcation.

*Answers will vary.*

## IDENTIFICATION

*Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)*

7. The fact that so many dead pelagic red crabs have coated are beaches points to carbon emissions once again. If concerned citizens don't respond by biking more and promoting climate awareness, all sea life could be dead in a few centuries.

*Slippery Slope*

8. Senator: "My opinion has changed on abortion. You can't argue with what's happened."

*Naturalistic Fallacy*

9. After our contractor was paid it turned out he had insulated our living room with mud. I'll never trust another human being again.

*Hasty Generalization*

10. College kid: "I have to give the thief my social security number. He's older than me, and the Bible says to honor your elders."

*Sweeping Generalization*

11. Boy: "I wanted his lunch, so I took it. Samson killed and spoiled Philistines, didn't he?"

*False Analogy*

12. "I'm not sure you should join in on that Facebook debate. The Bible says not to answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him (Prov. 26:4)."

*none*

13. This book must be good writing, because a critic liked it, and if it's well-written, critics will like it.

*Affirming the Consequent*

14. Bully: "Play football or join the nerd herd. Choose, four-eyes!"

*Bifurcation*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 points

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR RANSOM'S

# QUIZ 7

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 41-47



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define Cool-Shame. Then list three fallacies with attributes that Cool-Shaming borrows.

*A millennial fallacy that superciliously excludes people who do not confess to a cultural elite's previously held ideals and flatteringly includes them if they do. It mixes the "you're an idiot" of Ad Hominem, the "I'm cool" of Transfer, the "Your opinions are already wrong" of Petitio Principii, and the "all the cool kids say..." of Ad Populum, among others (Bulverism etc).*

2. Define Hooked on a Feeling. List two previous fallacies with attributes that it borrows.

*A millennial fallacy that refuses to believe an opponent's argument solely because of a negative feeling about that argument. Hooked on a Feeling appears to be descended from an Ad Misericordiam (yes, you feel bad, but it's a situation where you ought not to feel bad about it) and a Petitio Principii (assuming the thing is wrong from the start while pretending to have 'reasons' for disagreeing).*

### IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

3. Junior-high student: "I know I'm watching this dreck with my mouth shut, but they picked the movie and I wouldn't want to offend them by mocking it and doing something else."

*Milquetoastery*

4. If you fight against nationwide welfare and helping the poor, you're unfit to join the real leadership of America—those who are boldly transgressing all future horizons.

*Cool-Shaming*

5. Church Communication Consultants: “Less than one half of teenagers questioned think church is cool. We need an ecclesiastical image summit immediately!”

*Polling Fallacy*

6. Christian: “I know working hard at school would increase my mental abilities, but I just don’t feel like putting in the effort. In the moment, I never feel like it.”

*Hooked on a Feeling*

7. “What do you mean, what do the lyrics ‘mean’? Couldn’t you hear the bitter cry of the artist’s soul as she rapped? Asking for meaning is so pedantic.”

*Two-Story Fallacy*

8. Falsity can illuminate truth better than facts (sometimes, at least). A fictional novel can be more “truthful” than a government report full of numbers.

*none*

## TEST 4: MILLENNIAL FALLACIES

ADORABLE FALLACIES 41-50



### COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. Define Sensitivity Shamming. When *should* you watch out for someone's feelings? Back up your answer with the Bible.

*A millennial fallacy that uses a hypothetical hostile audience's sensitivities to curtail further discussion of a position or argument. Always take heed of your audience's feelings (if their feelings aren't misleading them). Just make sure it's your real audience, and not one fabricated out of thin air to get your opponent out of a tight spot. Basically, this is the flip side of avoiding the Straw Man fallacy. Stupid words are like sword cuts, but a wise tongue brings healing (Prov. 12:18). Answers will vary.*

2. "Some facts are opinions." True or false? Discuss.

*No facts are opinions. A fact is true or false. Opinions may vary and are not falsifiable. What gets confusing is when people state truth claims in the form of opinions, or vice-versa. The Law of Non-Contradiction states that nothing can be true and false at the same time.*

3. Which groups of people only see meaning in values? Which only see meaning in facts? Do any groups accurately see meaning in both?

*Answers will vary. Values categories: religion, morality, art, emotions, etc. Facts categories: science, industry, etc. Values groups: postmodernists, relativists, New Agers, etc. Facts groups: modernists, materialists, atheists, etc. Christianity sees a connection between spirituality and reality without separating the two.*

4. Oftentimes, you'll realize you're being spoked when you keep patiently answering heaps of objections and your opponent's conclusion doesn't change in the slightest. This process should remind you of two fallacies of distraction: what are they?

*Your opponent is offering Irrelevant Theses, which means you are accidentally attacking Straw Men (based on the false front your opponent has put up). Figure out what actually matters to them (prob. not a fact.)*

5. Write your own Cool-Shame fallacy.

*Answers will vary.*

6. Compose an example of a Hooked on a Feeling fallacy.

*Answers will vary.*

## IDENTIFICATION

*Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)*

7. Policy-makers who argue that recycling is ineffective and expensive are unbelievable. I'd like to see them argue that to the poor people in Central America wading through rivers clogged with unrecycled trash, just looking for their next meal!

*Sensitivity Shamming*

8. "I dislike how my salary compares to your salary. We should have state-government-mandated annual bonuses for mid-level employees."

*Ad Imperium*

9. "I don't believe the Bible because of miracles. And hypocrites. And the Rapture. And end-times prophets. And circumcision. Etc."

*Hyperlogicism*

10. PP CEO: "We aren't concerned with money when killing babies! Prove it."

CMP: "Um . . . here are profit-motivated statements by ten of your top-tier employees."

PP CEO: "You're wrong. Closing us down will hurt women! Prove otherwise."

*Moving the Goalposts*

11. Christian guy: "It's wrong for the Church to want the national government alone to take care of the poor. But that's just my opinion and shouldn't bind anyone's conscience."

*Pomo Relativism*

12. Christian guy: “You shouldn’t preach that being a practicing homosexual is a sin—lots of gay people are regularly discriminated against by Christians, and if they heard you preaching that, they’ll only be driven farther from Jesus.”

13. Informed Christian guy: “I’m not going to converse politely about the issues with the counterprotester I’m standing next to at the rally because I’m too nervous.”

14. Political Christian guy: “Well, I think he’s the best candidate we’ve seen in a couple election cycles, but the Greater Rodomontade Poll says he hasn’t got a popsicle’s chance in August. I guess I won’t vote for him.”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ / 30 points

# THE AMAZING DR. RANSOM'S COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

FOR ADORABLE FALLACIES 1-50



## COMPREHENSION

Answer the following big-picture questions, demonstrating your grasp of the material along with some original thought. (2 pts each)

1. The Amazing Doctor Ransom divide his fallacies into four kingdoms. List and briefly describe the most important thing about each category.

*Distraction, Ambiguity, Form, Millennial*

*Answers will vary. Distraction diverts you from relevant truth/falsity towards the irrelevant. Ambiguity makes it hard to discern irrelevant truth/falsity. Form is structurally flawed and thus its conclusions are always fallacious and irrelevant. Millennial is contemporary reincarnations of the previous three categories.*

2. In an argument, who has the burden of proof? Explain how the fallacies of *Ad Ignorantiam* and Moving the Goalposts affect the burden of proof.

*Ad Ignorantiam tries to get you to assume the negative burden of proof, which is often impossible. Moving the Goalposts could be seen as constantly increasing the "burden" of proof, or perhaps always assigning new burdens of proof.*

3. Compare and contrast the fallacies of Special Pleading, No True Scotsman, and Sweeping Generalization.

*All have to do with exceptions. Special Pleading adds an unreasonable exception to a rule, and Sweeping Gen ignores a reasonable exception. No True Scotsman gets rid of a reasonable exception another way. SP and NTS are more diversionary (distracting), while an SG is bad induction.*

4. Should we ever reason using induction? Give an example of a strong inductive argument. Then, make that strong argument weak by tweaking a few details.

*Since we're not God, we can never not use induction (true universals require omniscience). So make sure you use it well.*

*Answers will vary.*

5. Write your own properly fallacious False Analogy.

*Answers will vary.*

6. Write your own drill-bit-nosed Bulverism.

*Answers will vary.*

7. Write a legitimate slippery slope (*not* a fallacy).

*Answers will vary; chain of consequences must be supported.*

8. Write a legitimate appeal to force (*not* a fallacy).

*Answers will vary; force must be biblically required.*

9. List two of the Amazing Doctor Ransom's fallacies that you have observed on your own in the wild, and where you observed them, and what the people they ruled were saying.

*Answers will vary.*

10. What are your two favorite fallacies that you've learned? Why? Write the name of the creatures themselves for extra credit.

*Answers will vary.*

## IDENTIFICATION

Identify the adorable fallacy present, or declare the reasoning fallacy-free. (1 pt each)

11. Atheist: “Jesus Christ exists? He is as real as my deity of choice, the Flying Spaghetti Monster. (The characteristic that they both share is that they’re both invented, of course.)”  
*Petitio Principii*
12. It’s not that Aunt Cindy gives bad presents, it’s just that nobody wants a handknitted sweater that is tight around the waist and saggy on the shoulders.  
*Selective Arrangement*
13. The longer the French custom of two-hour lunch breaks during the work week has persisted, the more their culture has wilted. Coincidence? I think not.  
*Post Hoc in Statistics*
14. “Cicero’s views on morality are actually quite informative for today’s citizens. After all, he was writing more about two thousand years before today’s silly ethicists were even born.”  
*Chronological Snobbery*
15. Christopher Reeve: “When matters of public policy are debated [as with embryonic stem cell research], no religions should have a seat at the table.”  
*Two-Story Fallacy (Facts)*  
*(or Tu Quoque, because he’s making a metaphysical or “religious” claim himself)*
16. Planned Parenthood has had unsupportable ties with eugenicists since its founder, Margaret Sanger, collaborated with so-called “Negro Project” originator W.E.B. DuBois.  
*none (not Genetic Fallacy—the origin is part of the truth under discussion)*
17. The reason I’m failing Latin class is that my teacher just wants me to stop speaking English for the rest of my life and move to Italy. Needless to say, that’s ridiculous—I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free.  
*Straw Man*
18. Civic Theorist: “A government’s sole purpose is the welfare of its citizens. From that simple premise it’s a logical step to a welfare system for those without jobs nationwide.”  
*Equivocation*
19. Vegan: “Don’t eat burgers if you wouldn’t eat your neighbor.”  
*False Analogy*
20. Supreme Court Justice Kennedy says two men can be married. I think the definition is settled.  
*Ipse Dixit*