

Tips for Public Speaking

**Logical Fallacies**

**What are logical fallacies and why do they matter?**

*Logical fallacies are errors in reasoning that can weaken your argument and undermine your credibility as a speaker. Being aware of common fallacies can help you construct stronger, more persuasive speeches.*

Common Fallacies:

1. Ad Hominem: Making claims or attacks towards the person making an argument rather than addressing the argument itself
2. Circular Reasoning: Making claims which have conclusions presupposed in one of the premises.
3. Slippery Slope: Making claims of exaggeratedly dire consequences without evidence of the causality of outcomes being linked
4. Straw Man: Making claims against an exaggerated version of the argument at hand rather than the argument itself

**Quick Tips:**

* Counterarguments: Anticipate potential objections to your argument and address them preemptively. Acknowledging opposing viewpoints demonstrates intellectual honesty and strengthens your argument in addition to making you more prepared for pushback.
* Critical Thinking: Evaluate all arguments critically. Avoid using fallacious reasoning and be prepared to identify and address fallacies in your speech.
* Evidence-Based Arguments: Support your claims with evidence and logical reasoning. Avoid relying solely on emotional appeals or anecdotal evidence, as they can be misleading. Be sure to balance appeals appropriately for your argument.
* Honesty and Integrity: Maintain honesty and integrity in your speech. Avoid misrepresenting evidence or using fallacious tactics to manipulate your audience.