



## Avanti Trust PRE Curriculum

### Worksheet Sheet 7.1.3b

#### “Why Some Arguments are Bad”



**Note for teachers:** Answers are on reverse, which you won't print for the Worksheet itself.

#### Exercise 1: (Starter)

Read the following seven statements. Next to each, please indicate whether the argument is good (with a tick, ✓) or bad (with a cross, ✗); if you are unsure, write a question mark (?). Be quick, as we'll have more time to discuss later.

1. Charisma thinks that lying is wrong; but what does she know? She is just a girl!
2. Black swans don't exist because no one has ever seen one!
3. Mr. Bennison said that the best place for holidays is Thailand. He must be right, because he is the Headmaster!
4. Destroying the environment is wrong, because we will suffer for it in the future.
5. Crossing the street while using our mobile phone is OK because everyone is doing it!
6. But, Miss, dropping litter is nothing really. Suresh has been bullying, which is *really* bad!
7. Krishna is God, because he says so; and he can't be wrong, because he is God.

#### Exercise 2: (Group Work)

You have heard which of the seven arguments are bad. Now, please discuss in your groups *why* they are bad (invalid). What is wrong with the reasons or the argument? Please write down your ideas (one of your group will need to tell us about your ideas and conclusions).

Please note: Your teacher may ask your group to concentrate on one bad argument. After you finish that one, move on to the next on the list.

For example, if your Group's main argument is number 7, then when you have finished that one, move on to discuss number 1, then number 2 and so on).

Please write your group's main argument here: Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers:**

The fallacies are as follows:

1. 'Attack on the person' (ad hominem) ✗
2. 'Black Swan fallacy' ('no-one has seen it, so it doesn't exist') ✗
3. 'Appeal to irrelevant authority' ✗
4. This is okay; no fallacy here! ✓
5. 'Everyone is doing it' (Similar to 'everyone knows') ✗
6. 'Other things are worse' ✗
7. 'Begging the Question' ('Circular argument') ✗

Note:

The teacher may wish to mention/explore other fallacies, or student may bring them up. Common ones include the 'red herring', 'false dilemma' and 'mean between two extremes'.