

## Poisoning the Well

Definition: Poisoning the Well is a type of ad hominem attack. In this fallacy, the speaker tries to discredit what a person might later claim by presenting unfavorable information about the person. The intent is to bias the listeners against the speaker.

The phrase comes from the Middle Ages where Jews were rumored to poison the well of Christians in order to have them die of the plague. No one actually knew if wells were poisoned or if the Jews were the ones who did it, but the accusations were enough to lead to the Jews being blamed and persecuted.

Examples:

1. Before you listen to my opponent, remember he has been in jail before.
2. Before I turn the floor over to my opponent may you remember, those who oppose my plans do not have the best interest at heart. He does not have a degree, but he does speak nicely, doesn't he.
3. Don't listen to him! He is a scoundrel.



↑  
Republican  
party

The protestors of Republican party are stating unfavorable information of Obama. Their intent is to bias the listeners against the speaker.

Weasel Words are words and phrases aimed at creating an impression that something specific and meaningful has been said, when in fact only a vague or ambiguous claim has been made. For example, when a store has an up to 50% off sale, people assume that many items are going to be 50% off when in reality the sale is UP TO 50% off so in reality some items might not be on sale at all.

up to  
**50%**  
off

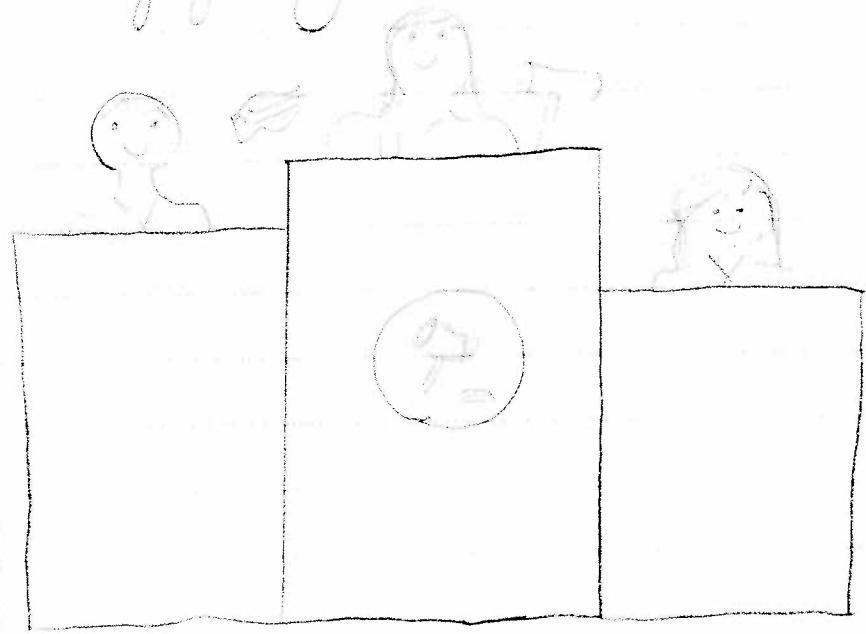
**DRESSED  
TO CELEBRATE**

*wish big and save more*

**new  
sale  
section**

**up to 50% off**

# Begging the Question



- ~~○~~
- ~~○~~
- ~~○~~
- ~~○~~ ~~○~~
- ~~○~~ ~~○~~
- ~~○~~ ~~○~~
- ~~○~~ ~~○~~

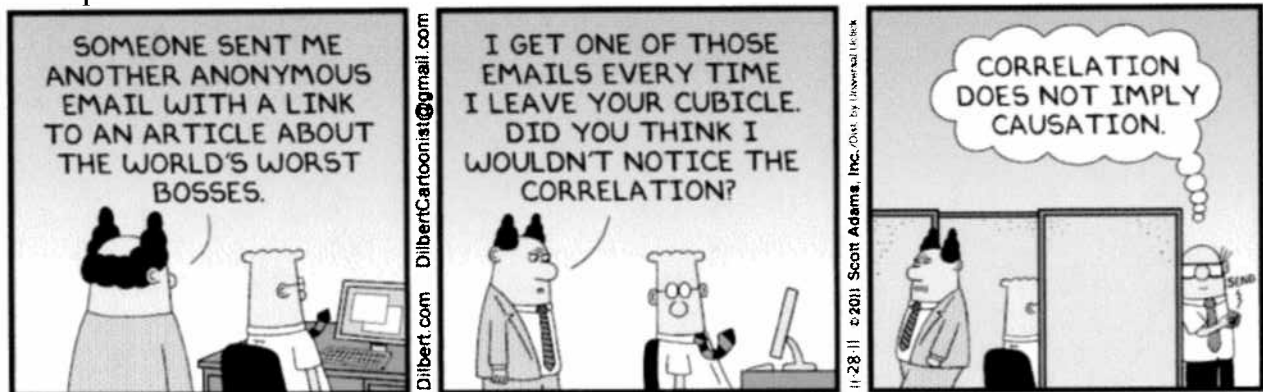
...is trying to discredit this man, Joe  
 in court and he is trying to  
 to prove that he is innocent,  
 but instead of answering the  
 prosecution's question, he talks  
 about good things. Joe was dumb.

## Post hoc, ergo propter hoc

Latin for “after this, therefore because of this”

Definition: This fallacy occurs when it is thought that one event caused another event to happen because it happened before it.

Example:



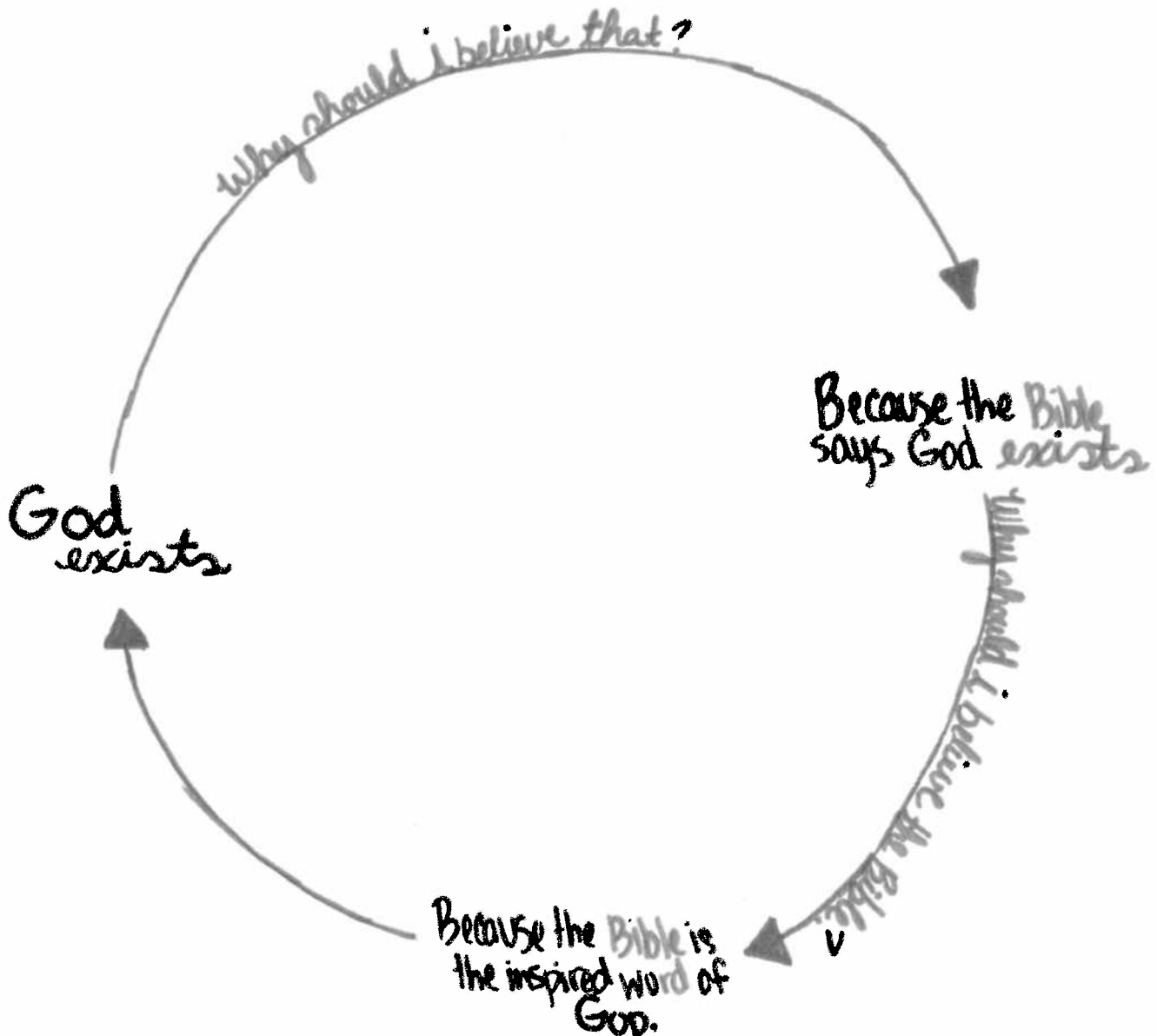
# Reductio ad Hitlerum

*This fallacy is when you compare the person you are arguing with or their argument as a whole to Hitler. It uses their guilt of association to allow you to regain control of the argument.*

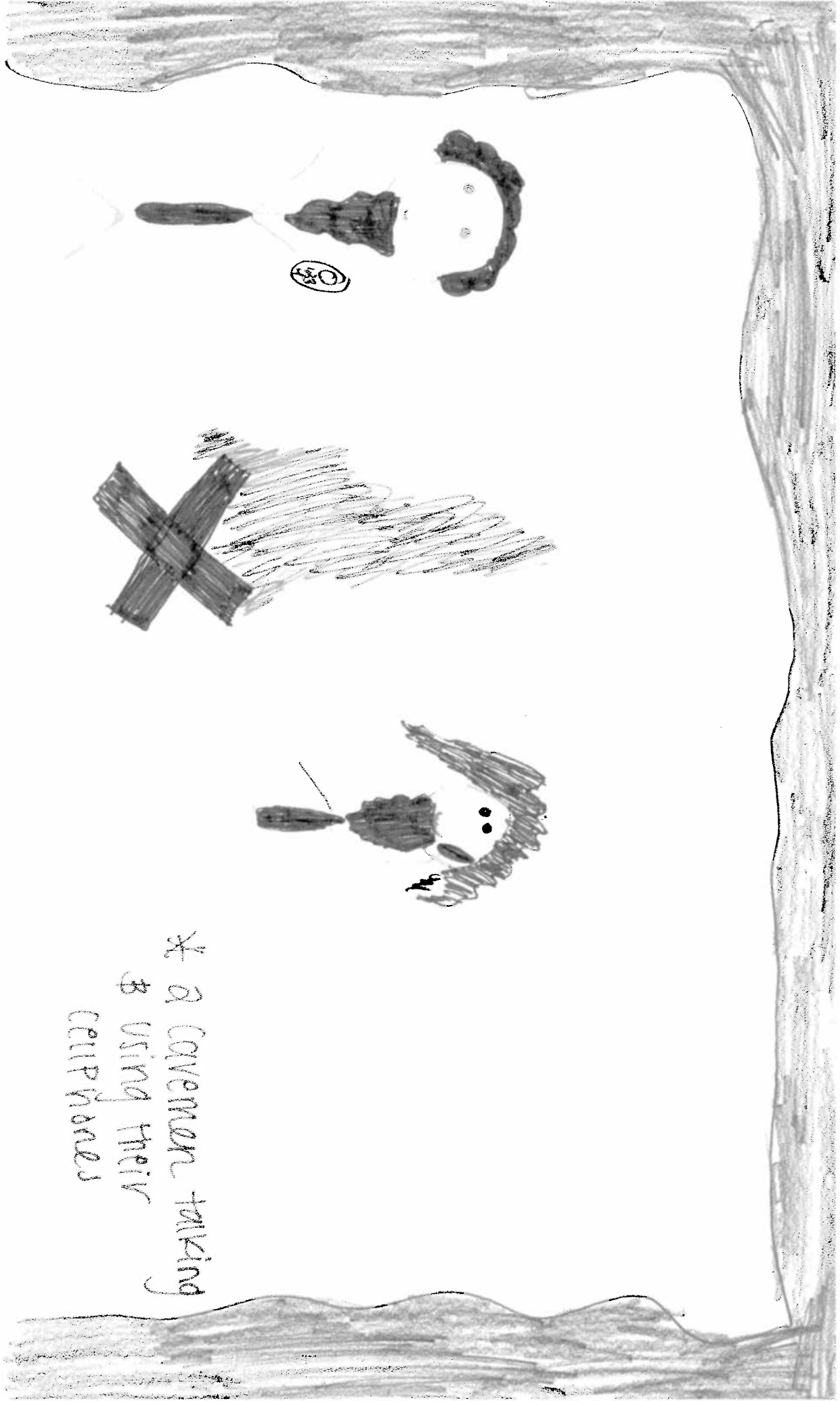


# reasoning in a CIRCLE

◉ closely related to "begging the question"



- ◉ logical fallacy.
- ◉ take one idea and phrase it in two statements.
- ◉ the author or speaker tries to prove his or her assertion by repeating it in different words.
- ◉ argument goes in an endless "circle" with each step of the argument relying on a previous one, never proving the assertion.



\* a coveman talking  
& using their  
cellphones

ANACHRONISM: A thing belonging or appropriate  
to a period other than in which it exists

Victoria Holmes



# APPEAL to BELIEF

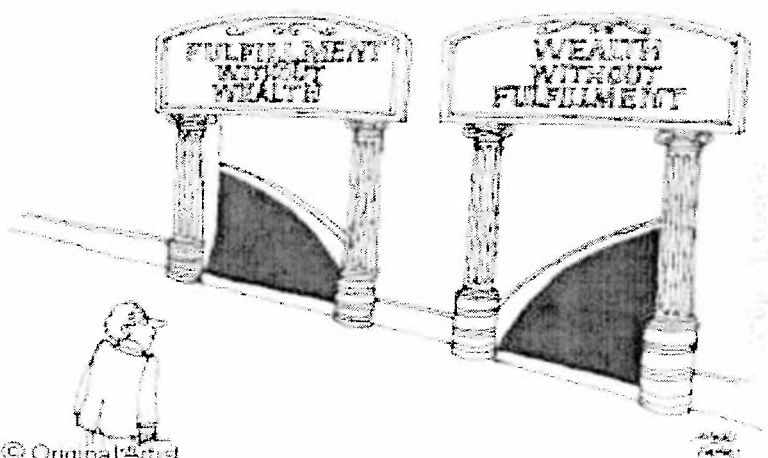
Emma Hanson  
December 10 4F



if something is believed to be true by a lot of people, then it must be true.



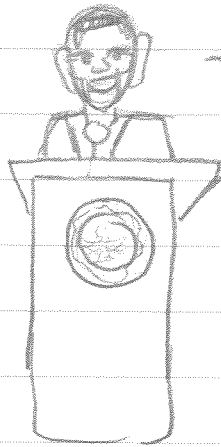
**A false dilemma is a type of logical fallacy that involves a situation in which only two alternatives are considered when in fact there are additional options (sometimes the shades of grey in between the extremes).**



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Kennedy B

# Scape goat



Just remember  
the past four and  
a few years is  
not my fault,  
it may have  
been the past  
decisions in  
this government  
Before me

A scape goat is similar to  
putting the blame on someone  
else for something you did or  
you can fix

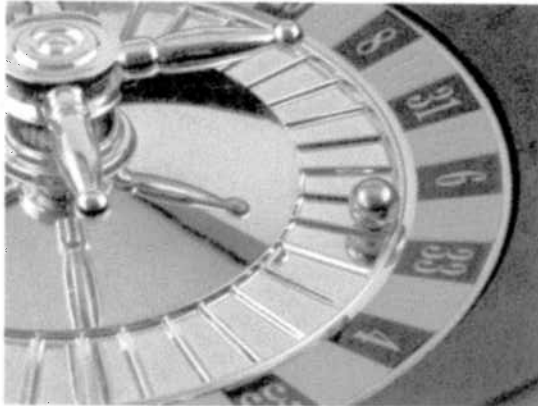
# Gambler's Fallacy

- **Definition-**

A person believes that a random event is less likely to happen after an event that happened.

A mistaken idea that the reoccurring of something with a fixed probability will not happen again due to random chances.

- Red had come up six times in a row on the roulette wheel, so Greg knew that it was time that black would be next up. He soon lost all of his savings.




# BEGGING THE QUESTION

**Definition:** Begging the question is a type of logical fallacy in which a premise is argued to be true with that premise serving as the evidence for the argument. It's kind of like a "because i said so" situation. For example...

Joe: "I'm an honest person."

Bill: "Well, how do i know that for sure?"

Joe: "I wouldn't lie to you about that, Bill."



The belief in God is universal. After all, everyone believes in God.

Lauren Seaver



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You're a republican,  
so you don't support  
women's rights.



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We should not federally  
fund abortions because  
our government is in debt.

## Ad Hominem

**Definition:** When someone attacks another person's character rather than the facts of their argument or statement.

1. Person A makes claim X.
2. Person B makes an attack on person A.
3. Therefore A's claim is false.

**Example:**

Bill: "I believe that abortion is morally wrong."

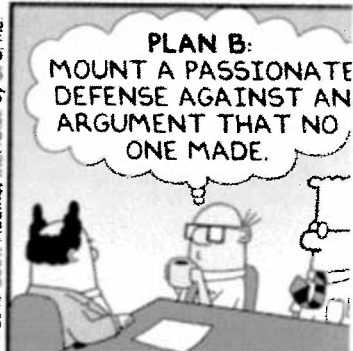
Dave: "Of course you would say that, you're a priest."

Bill: "What about the arguments I gave to support my position?"

Dave: "Those don't count. Like I said, you're a priest, so you have to say that abortion is wrong. Further, you are just a lackey to the Pope, so I can't believe what you say."

Ad Hominem and Obama Example:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebT1Oo6yDMI>



Straw man fallacy: Misrepresenting an opponent's argument to make it easier to attack

Example: "After Will said that we should put more money into health and education, Warren responded by saying that he was surprised that Will hates our country so much that he wants to leave it defenseless by cutting military spending." ([paralogicalfallacy.com](http://paralogicalfallacy.com))

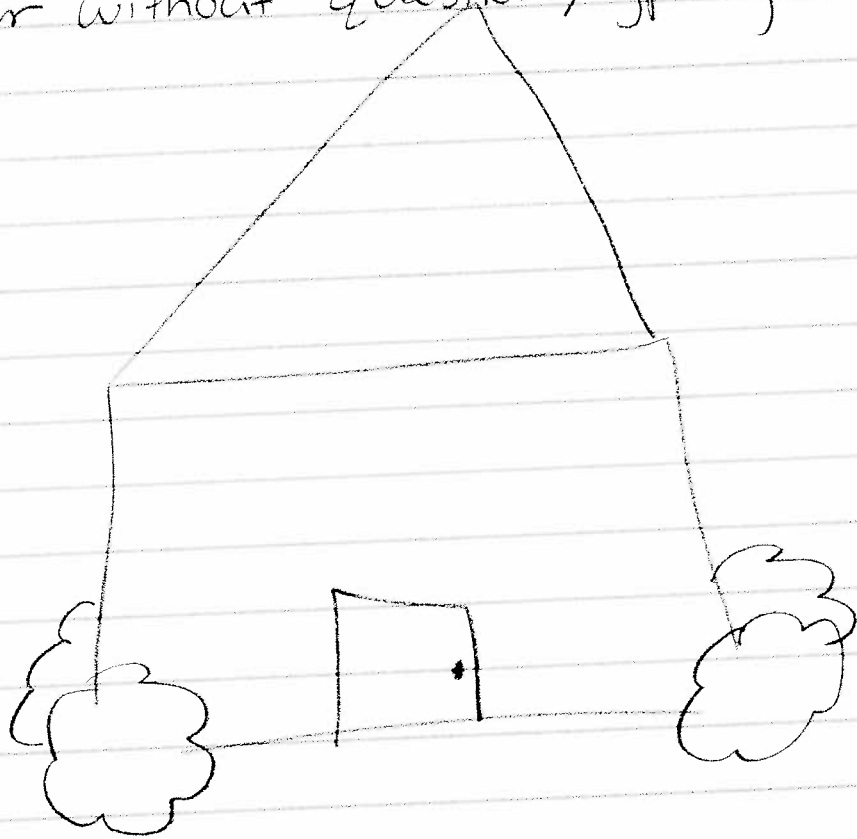
Mackenzie Anderson



Cherlyn  
Tegtmeyer

## Slippery slope

- when a person asserts that some event will inevitably follow another without question, typically dramatic.



"if you don't cut these bushes they'll grow over the house and we'll be trapped!"

# Fallacy

Appeal to popular opinion - a claim that something is true because most people think it's what most people believe.

This album must be good because people say it is.

