Fallacies and Errors in Thinking

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Over the next four learning units, we are going to be studying fallacies or errors in thinking.

What is the definition of fallacy?

A fallacy is an argument that uses poor reasoning. An argument can be fallacious whether or not its conclusion is true. A fallacy can be either formal or informal.

I am not going to list all the fallacies or errors in thinking. There will be several activities to explore the many fallacies that can be used in our thinking.

- "Mine is better" is balanced by the awareness that other people feel the same way about their things as you and I do. Many people realize that we all see ourselves in a special way. People who are secure and self-confidant can control the tendency.

Example of "Mine is better:"

In feelings: Very pleasant, favorable sensations; the desire to embrace a statement or argument immediately, without appraising it further. Or very unpliant, negative sensations, the desire to attack and denounce a state or argument without delay.

In thoughts: Ideas such "I'm glad that experts are taking such a position-I've thought it all along." Or ideas such "This view is outrageous because it challenges what I have always thought-I refuse to consider it."

The appropriate response it to resist the reaction and force yourself to consider the matter fair-mindedly.

- Errors of perspective distort the real world. They shape the attitudes and habits you bring to the evaluation of issues and create expectations that bias your thinking. Moreover, you may not even be aware of their existence unless you evaluate your patterns of thought.

Types of perspective errors are "the either/or outlook," mindless conformity, absolutism, relativism, bias for or against change. You can look up examples by using "Google."

- Another type of fallacy are the errors of procedure which occur in the process of addressing specific issues: biased consideration of evidence, double standard, hasty conclusion, overgeneralization, and stereotyping oversimplification and the post hoc fallacy.
- Errors of expression occur in expressing our views to others, orally or in writing. These errors are contradiction, arguing in a circle, meaningless statement, mistaken authority, false analogy, and irrational appeal. These are errors in our thought process because they are in our mind.

The errors we have been talking about, occur at different stages in the overall process of thinking. Errors in expression usually happen when we are speaking or writing.

- Errors in reaction occur after we have finished expressing our ideas and others have criticized or challenged them. These are face-saving devices we use to explain away criticism of our ideas. Examples are automatic rejection, changing the subject, shifting the burden of proof, straw man, and attacking the critic.

Please look the different types of fallacies up via "Google" to help you learn their definitions and examples.

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