

Fallacy

A. Using the fallacy chart below, indicate which type of fallacy each sentence is.

Type	Symbol	Definition
Overgeneralization	O	A statement that is so broad that it can easily be disproved
Stereotype	S	A negative generalization.
Circular Reasoning	CR	Proving a statement by repeating or rewording the opinion.
Single-Cause	SC	A claim that something is the only cause when other causes exist.
Cause-Effect	CE	The fact that one event happened before another does not necessarily mean that the first event caused the second event.

1. People who live alone are always lonely. _____
2. Athletes aren't very intelligent. _____
3. The people who give the weather report are always wrong. _____
4. The best place to live is England. _____
5. Every time I plan a picnic, it rains. _____
6. All models are tall and pretty. _____
7. Edgar Allan Poe is the greatest writer of horror stories. _____
8. The tiger is the most beautiful animal in the jungle. _____
9. People who do poorly on tests don't study enough. _____
10. Astrology is more interesting than astronomy because astrology is more fascinating than astrology. _____
11. Great athletes train every day in the gym. Therefore, training every day results in being good at sports. _____
12. Robert is the best candidate for class president because he would make the best class president. _____
13. Smog is caused by too many automobiles on the road. _____
14. Children who start school at an early age do better in school because they start when they are young. _____

B. In the box below, write the numbers of the sentences which match the fallacy type.

1. Either we win this championship or our team will never win one.
2. The oceans' waters are polluted because of oil spills.
3. All students love history.
4. Pablo Picasso was the greatest painter of the twentieth century.
5. New York City restaurants serve the best food in the United States.
6. All pro basketball players make several million dollars each year.
7. The friendliest people live on the west coast.
8. The reason why dinosaurs died out was that an asteroid hit Earth.
9. Only people with college degrees can get good jobs.

Fallacy Type	Sentences
Overgeneralization	
Stereotype	
Circular Reasoning	
Single-Cause	
Cause/Effect	

C. Identify the following statements as Circular Reasoning (CR), Single-Cause Fallacy (SC), Stereotype (S), Overgeneralization (O), or Cause/Effect (CE).

1. All Russians drink too much alcohol. _____
2. Lung cancer is the result of smoking too many cigarettes for too many years. _____
3. Smart students always earn the highest grades in math class because they are intelligent. _____
4. Women drive more slowly than men because they want to take fewer risks. _____
5. An unexpected flat tire made him ruin his wedding. _____
6. Students who prefer sports to academics score lower on exams. _____
7. Asian students are superior to North American students in math and science. _____
8. Excessive consumption of fast food causes heart attacks. _____
9. Carrots are a healthy food because they are good for your eyes. _____
10. Mike didn't sleep well last night because he had a big argument with his friend. _____

