

Poor thinking – 4 key mistakes

Ad Hominem (attacking the person themselves, not what they're saying)

Fallacy of the single cause (claiming that a complex situation has a single cause and there are no other factors involved)

Straw man (presenting a distorted picture/false impression of what someone else is saying and then attacking that, instead of what they are actually saying)

Sunk Costs fallacy (persisting in a belief or a course of action because you've invested a lot of time/money/energy/emotion/reputation etc in it, even though continuing with it would be more damaging than giving it up).

First decide which is which; then you might like to:-

- think of your own examples of any of the fallacies
 - think about what emotional states the person is in who uses any particular fallacy
 - think about how the dharma can help us avoid any of the fallacies
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1. *I wouldn't want to be a Buddhist – the Buddha was always talking about suffering; what a miserable religion!*
 2. *I wouldn't want to be a Buddhist – the Buddha left his wife and child; why would you listen to a man who did that?*
 3. *The reason the UK has had a higher number of deaths from Coronavirus than other countries (like New Zealand) is because the population is unhealthier.*
 4. *The US government continued with the war against Vietnam long after they realised they weren't going to win because they couldn't face the public reaction to losing it.*