Logical Fallacies #2

1. Go to the following website to review logical fallacies: http://www.fallacyfiles.org/introtof.html

2. Once at the website, read the definition of a logical fallacy; then, travel to the “Complete Alphabetical List of Fallacies” (on the left), and read the definitions of “Bandwagon Fallacy,” “Argumentum ad Hominem,” and “Bad Company Fallacy.”

3. Answer the following questions:

   A. What is the difference between abusive and circumstantial ad hominem?

   B. In the Bad Company definition, what was the al Qaeda cheering squad, and why is this a fallacy?

   C. What is the origin of the term bandwagon?

4. Label the following as Bandwagon, Bad Company, Ad Hominem, or Not a Fallacy.

   a. A teenager is undecided about the presidential candidates because he hasn’t researched the candidates’ records and positions. On the news, he hears that Governor Schwarzenegger has endorsed the Independent candidate. After thinking it over, he decides not to vote for the Independent candidate because he doesn’t like or support Schwarzenegger.

   b. A young woman is against off-shore drilling because of her research on its environmental effects. When she hears that an environmental protest group is forming in her area, she calls up, joins it, and participates in its first formal protest of off-shore drilling.

   c. A debate erupts at lunchtime over the relative benefits of buying or bringing lunch; Tom and Jerry bring their lunches, while Sam and Sally buy theirs. Sam points out that Tom and Jerry are both failing Statistics 101 and neither of them have girlfriends. Sam and Sally laugh that bringing a lunch is a bad idea if that is the sort of result you might get.

5. Meet with a professor to go over your answers. Be sure to explain the reasoning behind your choices.

ENG 1B
SLO #1