Logical Fallacies #2

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will learn about several different fallacies. This DLA should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

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 on the back of this sheet:
   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. Bill, Brett, and John are all friends of Carl, and they have all been arrested. Jill is friends with Carl. Therefore, Jill must be a criminal, too.

   b. Commercial jingle: “Nobody doesn’t like Sara Lee!”

   c. 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.

   d. Following the presidential debate, a pundit on a news show says that Candidate A looked sloppy and couldn’t string together a coherent sentence.

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

Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:

Instructor Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________