Logical Fallacies #3

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will be able to define the term “logical fallacy” and 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 “False Analogy,” “Either/Or Fallacy,” and “Equivocation.”

3. Answer the following questions on the back of this sheet:
   A. Why would someone use a false analogy?

   B. In the Either/Or Fallacy, what is the difference between contrary and contradictory propositions?

   C. How is “White House Mum on Destroyed CIA Tapes” equivocation?

4. Label the following as False Analogy, Either/Or Fallacy, Equivocation, or Not a Fallacy.

   a. A young boy gets caught after breaking his neighbor’s window with a baseball. The neighbor tells his parents that the boy threw a ball through her window. The boy denies it because he didn’t throw the ball; he hit it with a baseball bat.

   b. The new college Chancellor demands that the students stop picketing the bookstore over its high prices. She says that the students should be studying their books, not spending their time on a protest.

   c. A mother tells her son to stop jumping on the bed. She says that he’ll be sorry if the bed jumping turns out as badly as the counter hopping that he must remember from last week. She reminds him that he still has the bruises from that activity, very similar to the bruises he might have if he falls off the bed.

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:_________________________