

preconceptions or dogma—is fundamental not only to the process or debate as set out in this book but also to its role more generally in any human society. The debater aims to make the ability to discern and examine arguments a part of her arsenal of skills, but she is likely to find that doing so spills over into her wider life and makes a habit of independent thought.

EXERCISE

- A. Look at the list of common errors in reasoning and logical fallacies given above. Can you think of situations in which these have occurred in everyday conversation? If not, where and when do you think they would be likely to occur?
 - B. In groups, discuss situations where you have encountered them or where you think they might be significant.
 - C. In the same groups, try to establish a meaningful answer to the question: When is it legitimate to lie?
 1. Consider whether the answer you come up with covers all situations.
 - Does it rely on assumptions that might not be true in all circumstances?
 - Would it require an audience to have already agreed with a certain position?
 - Is it self-proving?
 - Does it work for situations where other people are lying to you—or just where you are lying to them?
 2. Exchange your answer with another group and scrutinize their answer while they do the same to yours. What flaws are there in their approach, how could it be improved?
 3. Report back to the class as a whole and then discuss the various answers as a class. You may wish to consider:
 - Do any of the answers hold true in all situations?
 - Is it possible to find one that does?
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