



# Ad Hominem Arguments

The purpose of an ad hominem argument is to discredit someone without regard for whether or not the argument supporting the claim is logical and correct. Below are three different kinds of ad hominem arguments:

<b>ad hominem circumstantial</b>	attempts to call someone's integrity into question; bringing up a person's biases and focusing on their personal situation
<b>tu quoque</b>	pointing out that an opponent is a hypocrite
<b>guilt by association</b>	having your argument called into question because it is the same argument that has been made by someone who is already viewed in a bad light.

Identify the type of ad hominem argument used in each statement.

1. A mother tells her daughter not to smoke. The daughter argues that it should be fine for her to smoke because her mother smokes.

2. A government employee is accused of conflict of interest when they award a contract to a company owned by their spouse.

3. A student running for student president makes an argument that was made by a previous student president, who has since been expelled.

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