

Examples of demagoguery and/or extreme rhetoric

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY & INTER-RACIAL DATING. In 2000, when Bob Jones University was **under fire for its policy against interracial dating**, the university explained its position:

[E]very effort man has made, or will make, to bring the world together in unity plays into the hand of Antichrist. This first began at the Tower of Babel, and it will culminate at Armageddon when the Lord returns to establish His rule of peace and harmony for a thousand years. Bob Jones University opposes one world, one church, one economy, one military, one race, and unisex. God made racial differences as He made sexual differences.¹

EXCERPT FROM STORMFRONT

Quote:

Fox News 'doctor' goes full Stormfront on President Obama. Dr. Keith Ablow [says the President wants Americans to get sick and die from Ebola](#) as vengeance for colonialism. "His affinities" are with Africa and "he's their leader."

McCloskey on Motivism and Marxism

"In modern times the corresponding obstacle to rhetorical thinking is vulgar Marxism (it is not confined to Marxists; a leading American vulgar Marxist was the late George Stigler, a Nobel laureate in economics). Vulgar Marxism rests on the Ideological Postulate, which the critic Wayne Booth has called "motivism"- the argument that I need not attend to your argument but only to the motives for your argument, since after all you are in the grips of your ideology (Booth 1974, 24f). The old turn in Communist rhetoric is "It is no accident that Comrade Trotsky advocates world revolution: after all, he is in the pay of anti-Soviet agents." Persuasion is supposed to come always from one's class or pocketbook, not from listening to the arguments." ("The Rhetoric of Liberty," Deirdre McCloskey. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (Winter, 1996), pp. 9-27)

Global Warming – Comments from *National Review Online*

"I think that claiming to believe or not believe in man caused climate change is just the surface argument for a larger battle, liberty vs. socialism. Man-made climate change supporters want to use the threat of catastrophe to push their agenda of expensive "renewable" energy, increased public transportation, increased urbanization and the elimination of suburbs and exurbs, electric cars, etc. Climate change is merely a means to a collectivist end."

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http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/frame_game/2014/02/homosexuality_religious_freedom_and_interracial_sex_is_bobby_jindal_the.html

Analyze the Statements & Identify Weaknesses

SAMPLE GMAT Strategies/Fallacies Exercise

1. "Since you don't believe that the earth is teetering on the edge of destruction, you must believe that pollution and other adverse effects that man has on the environment are of no concern whatsoever."
2. "The stock market declined shortly after the election of the president, thus indicating the lack of confidence the business community has in the new administration."
3. "In a recent survey conducted by Wall Street Weekly of its readers, 80% of the respondents indicated their strong disapproval of increased capital gains taxes. This survey clearly shows that increased capital gains taxes will meet with strong opposition from the electorate."
4. "People should keep their promises, right? I loaned Dwayne my knife, and he said he'd return it. Now he is refusing to give it back, but I need it right now to slash up my neighbors' families. Dwayne isn't doing right by me."
5. "People who oppose mandatory sentencing want convicted rapists and killers to get off scot-free."

Identify the Strategy and/or Fallacy

1. "People object to racism because they say it is a form of discrimination. Yet even *they* agree that it is OK to choose carefully which tomatoes to buy in the supermarket. They discriminate between the over-ripe, the under-ripe, and the just right. They discriminate between TV shows they don't want to watch and those they do. So, what's all this fuss about racism if they're willing to discriminate, too?"
2. "Scripture is either God's pure, infallible word, free of any contradiction, error or inconsistency, or it is a purely human invention full of error, inconsistency and contradiction that can be dismissed as such. Since one can clearly find contradictions and errors in the bible, the bible can thus be dismissed."
3. "Darwin's theory of evolution is just that, a theory. Theories are merely ideas that are not certain or infallible. We don't want our children to believe that theories are certain or infallible, so we shouldn't teach the theory of evolution in school without mentioning this, and without including alternatives such as intelligent design."
4. "The house is white; therefore it must be big"
5. "My roommate said her philosophy class was hard, and the one I'm in is hard, too. All philosophy classes must be hard!"
6. "Giving money to charity is the right thing to do. So charities have a right to our money."

Choose from: False dilemma (either/or); Ad hominem, Non sequitur; Hasty Generalization; Fallacy of Equivocation; False Principle.

Bin Laden Speech, 7 October, 2001.



I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and that Mohammed is his messenger. There is America, hit by God in one of its softest spots. Its greatest buildings were destroyed, thank God for that.

There is America, full of fear from its north to its south, from its west to its east. Thank God for that. What America is tasting now, is something insignificant compared to what we have tasted for scores of years.

Our nation (the Islamic world) has been tasting this humiliation and this degradation for more than 80 years. Its sons are killed, its blood is shed, its sanctuaries are attacked, and no one hears and no one heeds.

When God blessed one of the groups of Islam, vanguards of Islam, they destroyed America. I pray to God to elevate their status and bless them. Millions of innocent children are being killed as I speak. They are being killed in Iraq without committing any sins and we don't hear condemnation or a fatwa from the rulers.

In these days, Israeli tanks infest Palestine - in Jenin, Ramallah, Rafah, Beit Jalla, and other places in the land of Islam, and we don't hear anyone raising his voice or moving a limb. When the sword comes down (on America), after 80 years, hypocrisy rears its ugly head. They deplore and they lament for those killers, who have abused the blood, honour, and sanctuaries of Muslims. The least that can be said about those people, is that they are debauched. They have followed injustice. They supported the butcher over the victim, the oppressor over the innocent child. May God show them His wrath and give them what they deserve.

I say that the situation is clear and obvious. After this event, after the senior officials have spoken in America, starting with the head of infidels worldwide, Bush, and those with him. They have come out in force with their men and have turned even the countries that belong to Islam to this treachery, and they want to wag their tail at God, to fight Islam, to suppress people in the name of terrorism.

When people at the ends of the earth, Japan, were killed by their hundreds of thousands, young and old, it was not considered a war crime, it is something that has justification. Millions of children in Iraq, is something that has justification. But when they lose dozens of people in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam (capitals of Kenya and Tanzania, where US embassies were bombed in 1998), Iraq was struck and Afghanistan was struck. Hypocrisy stood in force behind the head of infidels worldwide, behind the cowards of this age, America and those who are with it.

These events have divided the whole world into two sides. The side of believers and the side of infidels, may God keep you away from them. Every Muslim has to rush to make his religion victorious. The winds of faith have come. The winds of change have come to eradicate oppression from the island of Muhammad, peace be upon him.

To America, I say only a few words to it and its people. I swear by God, who has elevated the skies without pillars, neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we live it in Palestine, and not before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be upon him. God is great, may pride be with Islam. May peace and God's mercy be upon you.