

Critical Thinking Puzzles

For each of these “puzzles” something about them requires critical thinking. Why?

"I'm voting for Tom Green because everyone else at work is." [Is this a logical argument?]

True...?



"Less than 10 percent of people who are prescribed this medication become addicted, so the addiction rates are not out of control."

What's wrong with this analysis from the American Bar Assn.?

From the ABA Survey of Civic Literacy:

"The poll also shows a majority of the public knows basic facts about the structure of government and the U.S. Constitution....93 percent know the two chambers of Congress are the House of Representatives and the Senate."

Here is the question and results from the ABA Survey:

What are the two Houses, or chambers, of Congress?

- Library of Congress and Congressional Budget Office 2%
- House of Commons and House of Lords 2%
- House of Representatives and Senate 93%

Logical Fallacy. Can you name it?

"If Congress begins to use its powers to rummage around in the tax returns of the president, what prevents Congress from doing the same to average Americans?" House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady told reporters..."

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Examine these TV commercial claims. Convincing / make sense?:

Liberty Mutual customizes your insurance.

SNHU [Southern New Hampshire Univ. can change the trajectory of your life.



These two articles refer to the same bill.

Why are the headlines different?



This one is subtle!...

There is something not at all logical about the conclusion [in the paragraph that starts "Nonetheless..."].

In regard to the Urban Growth Boundary -

It "was harshly criticized. [They said]...housing shortages would emerge and become chronic problems making the areas within the boundary unaffordable.

Nonetheless, there remains no evidence of this claim as Portland remains more affordable than all other major West Coast cities."