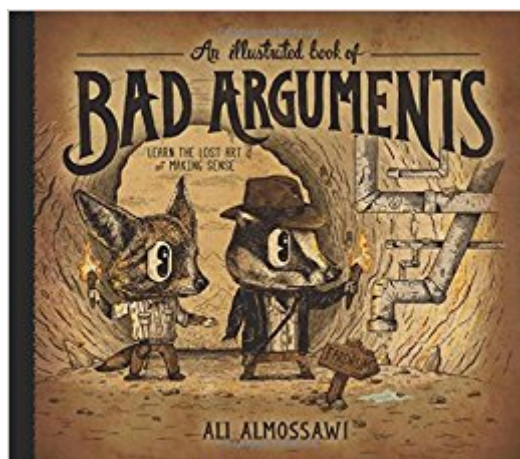


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# An Illustrated Book Of Bad Arguments



## Synopsis

“A flawless compendium of flaws.” —Alice Roberts, PhD, anatomist, writer, and presenter of The Incredible Human Journey  
The antidote to fuzzy thinking, with furry animals! Have you read (or stumbled into) one too many irrational online debates? Ali Almosawi certainly had, so he wrote *An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments*! This handy guide is here to bring the internet age a much-needed dose of old-school logic (really old-school, à la Aristotle). Here are cogent explanations of the straw man fallacy, the slippery slope argument, the ad hominem attack, and other common attempts at reasoning that actually fall short — plus a beautifully drawn menagerie of animals who (adorably) commit every logical faux pas. Rabbit thinks a strange light in the sky must be a UFO because no one can prove otherwise (the appeal to ignorance). And Lion doesn’t believe that gas emissions harm the planet because, if that were true, he wouldn’t like the result (the argument from consequences). Once you learn to recognize these abuses of reason, they start to crop up everywhere from congressional debate to YouTube comments — which makes this geek-chic book a must for anyone in the habit of holding opinions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Wonderfully digestible . . . I can’t think of a better way to be taught or reintroduced to these fundamental notions of logical discourse. A delightful little book.” —Aaron Koblin, creative director, Google’s Data Arts team  
“I love this illustrated book of

bad arguments. A flawless compendium of flaws.

• Alice Roberts, PhD, anatomist, writer, and presenter of The Incredible Human Journey

“A whimsical, straightforward primer . . . a guide to how to strengthen and how not to weaken your arguments.

• Shelf Awareness, starred review

“A very good book every scientist should have. Every scholar, really.

• Hope Jahren, author of *Lab Girl*

“This little book takes a potentially ponderous subject (logical fallacies) and makes it wonderfully entertaining.

• Omaha World-Herald

“Bad arguments, great illustrations . . . gorgeous.

• Cory Doctorow, BoingBoing.net

“[A] handsome newcomer’s guide to the world of logic . . . Almosawwi and his

McSweeney’s-ready artist Giraldo accessibly tackle such classic subjects as circular reasoning, false dilemma, straw man, appeal to ignorance, and genetic fallacy . . . an attractive, substantive read.

• John Wenzel, Denver Post blog

“Seriously, An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments should be on every school curriculum. Twitter will be a more civil place.

• Kevin Tang, BuzzFeed.com

“A great primer for anyone looking to understand logical fallacies . . . Pass it along to the arguers

• good and bad

• in your life.

• Lauren Davis, io9.com

“Now more than ever, you need this illustrated guide to bad arguments, faulty logic, and silly rhetoric.

• Dan Solomon, Fast Company magazine online

“Share [this book] with your friends. Encourage your family members to flip through it. Casually leave copies in public places.

• Jenny Bristol, GeekDad.com

“[A] wonderful primer on the logical fallacies that have been screwing up our thinking . . . since shortly after the invention of dirt.

• Ron Kretsch, DangerousMinds.net

Ali Almosawwi holds a Masters in Engineering Systems from MIT and a Masters in Software Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He currently lives with his wife and daughter in San Francisco, where he works as a data visualization designer for Mozilla, while continuing to collaborate with his colleagues at the MIT Media Lab. Ali’s work has appeared in publications such as Wired.

In this day and age, this subject is more relevant than ever. Errors in reasoning are all around us, flooding the the news and infiltrating political discourse (to the extent it even exists anymore!). This cute little illustrated book presents flawed logic in a concise and approachable way. A must read for anyone wanting to navigate complex issues and the arguments surrounding them. Some of my

favorites: Straw Man, Equivocation, False Dilemma, Appeal to irrelevant authority, Appeal to Fear, Slippery Slope. 20 Fallacies are presented in total, each with an illustration and an example. Enjoy!!

Great book, beautifully bound and clear pictures. Good for all ages to learn the ideas of fallacies from. A good book to teach students with! Recommended if you are a teacher/person who likes to collect books on mental thought!

This book overall is going to honestly be your best friend in the war on the internet if you are a scrub and don't know what you're doing or how to form rational thoughts. That's not to say that I am some master of something as arbitrary as internet arguments, but no joke this book will bolster your ability to spot and see through deception or just point out faulty logic in general. It's like a magazine in Fallout: New Vegas. No joke. You can look, see the page, see the error and see if it follows through with the erroneous belief presented. The illustrations are great. The examples are good. Like seriously, I have no faults for this book. If you want to get it as a gag gift for your friend who gets madder than heck on the internet because he's always losing, this might be the thing to help him. Unless you know, you don't want him trying to pull this level of effort on you. In which case, buy this book yourself AND COUNTER ARGUE HIM LIKE AN EPISODE OF YU GI OH WITH LOGIC AS YOUR DECK AND THE HEART OF THE CARDS JUST BEING YOUR HEART YO.

I gave this as a gift to some friends for the holidays but managed to give it a thorough read before wrapping it up, and I must say this is a must for every coffee table. This goes doubly so for houses that have children. Not only does it teach rhetorical skills and provide adroit methods of defusing fallacy, but it also teaches critical thinking skills, all with beautiful illustration. A must have for any thinking person!

Wonderful idea. Not so wonderfully executed. The illustrations are central to following what's being said, but between the drawing style and the bizarre use of fonts in the captions, I found myself not really wanting to look at them.

This is a great book. The text itself is clear and direct. The language is not highly technical so it's great for young adults and non-academics; it is also great for teaching rhetorical arguments from the middle school to high school and even college level. I teach first year writing at the university level, I am using this book semester to teach rhetorical fallacies. I already know my students will respond

significantly better to this book than they did to the Bedford/St. Martin's handbook.

This is a good overview of a bunch of arguments we all make that really don't stand up to logical analysis. Though most of these are very obvious upon reading them, I think we all fall victim or, even worse, perpetrator, to these crimes. Sometimes, we even use them deliberately because we don't have the reasoning to back them up. I can see myself referring to this book frequently after I make arguments to see which of these crutches I might have used so I can reduce and eventually eliminate my usage of them.

There's lessons to be learned with these examples of bad argument formats. That makes the book worth reading alone, even if you're familiar with them. The illustrations are cute and also give examples on their own. There's just not much to the chapters. I'd like to see the book fleshed out with other topics related to the arguments, such as the psychology behind them.

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