Logical Fallacies

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A ***logical fallacy*** is a mistake in reasoning that follows one of various well-known patterns.

In the following slides, we'll discuss several of the most common types of logical fallacies.

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Non Causa Pro Causa

The ***non causa pro causa*** fallacy is an error of mistaken causation.

Its Latin name means "non-cause for cause." It is also known as the fallacy of "false cause" or "questionable cause."

A speaker commits this fallacy when he or she identifies a factor that is not a cause (i.e., a "non-cause") as a cause.

Often, non causa arguments mistake mere coincidence or correlation for causation.

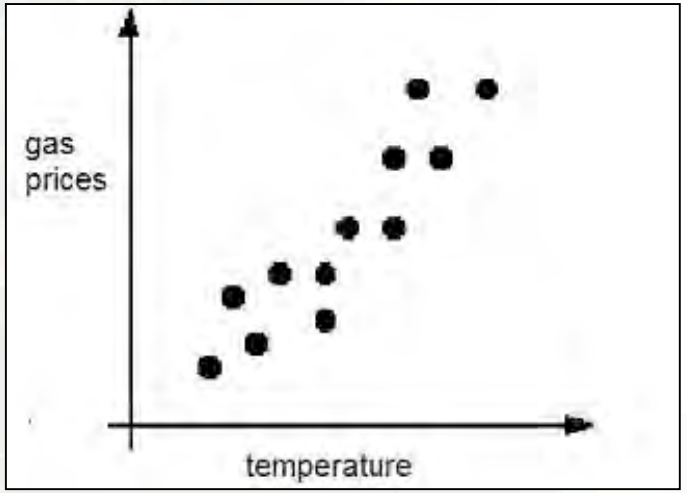
It's important to recognize that correlation is not the same as causation.

Correlation describes a relationship between two or more factors.

Example:

"The increase in temperature was correlated with a simultaneous increase in gas prices."

As the temperature increases,
the price of gas also increases.



By contrast, ***causation*** is the act of producing an effect.

If we identify a factor as a *cause*, there is no doubt that it has brought about a particular result.

Example:

"Falling down the stairs caused Jennifer to break her arm."

Non Causa Pro Causa

Even if multiple factors appear to be related in some way, one cannot assume that there is any kind of cause-and-effect relationship between them *without further evidence*.

Non causa arguments often overlook the possibility that two factors may be related by mere chance.

They presume that if two factors appear to be related in some way (e.g., if they occur at the same time or in the same place), the relationship must be of a cause-effect nature.