

Fallacy Finder Answer Key

Fallacies Identified

1. **Hasty Generalization:** *"If one teenager cheats on a test, it proves that all teenagers are dishonest."*
 - Flaw: Assumes all teenagers are dishonest based on one example.
2. **Slippery Slope:** *"If schools don't crack down immediately, cheating will spread everywhere, and soon no one will ever study again."*
 - Flaw: Exaggerates consequences without evidence.
3. **False Cause:** *"Technology is the root of the problem."*
 - Flaw: Blames technology for cheating without proving it causes the behavior.

Sample Responses

1. **Most damaging fallacy:** The hasty generalization, because it unfairly labels an entire group of students.
2. **Rewrite suggestion:** Instead of claiming *all* teenagers are dishonest, the author could say: *"Some students may be tempted to cheat, but schools can support academic integrity through clear rules and teaching about ethics."*
3. **Student-created fallacy example:** *"If I don't get a new pair of sneakers, I'll never be good at sports."* (Fallacy: False Cause)

Teacher Guide/Notes

- **Skill Emphasis:** Students practice **critical thinking** by spotting errors in reasoning.
- Encourage them to focus not just on labeling the fallacy but on explaining **why it weakens the argument**.
- Extension activity: Provide students with short editorial excerpts and have them underline logical fallacies in real-world writing.