Logical Fallacies—Quick Quiz

Identify or explain the fallacy in the following arguments:

1. In spite of what some say, the number of the poor is rising in America because there is no evidence to suggest that number is decreasing.

2. Susan passed English 301. Joey passed English 301. Kory passed English 301. English 301 must be an easy class, since three out of three students I know passed it.

3. You may tell me that it is cruel to require students to learn Hebrew. But is it any less cruel to require them to enroll in physical education courses? The mental strains of mastering a dead language pale beside the rigors of athletics.

4. Bicycles are a means of transportation, and we all know that transportation is vital to American commerce. If we get rid of all the current bike lanes, there will be less bikes, hence less transportation. Getting rid of bicycle lanes would cripple American trade entirely.

5. Why should responsible adults who are eighteen be given extended credit? Because people who are adults are mature, and anyone who is mature is responsible enough to have control of money.

Section of Fiendish Difficulty. Some of the following sentences are logical fallacies, and some aren’t. Circle the fallacies and identify its type in the margin.

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