



Ad Exemplum Fallacies

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Abstract

We first examine what a fallacy is, emphasizing that there is no real theory of fallacies, naming and listing being predominant. We then discuss the notion of example: what is the importance and value of examples, what are good and bad examples. Then we present three exemplifications of fallacies, explaining their defects and limitations, and arguing that *Ad Exemplum fallacies* are one of the biggest sin.

Keywords: Fallacy, Example, Analogy, Generalization

1 Introduction

Many fallacies are explained through some examples. To explain something through an example is not necessarily bad. It is a problem when it is a bad example. To give bad examples can be considered as a typical case of error in reasoning, of fallacy, that we name *Ad Exemplum Fallacy*. We will give some (hopefully good) examples of bad examples used to explain some given categories of fallacies. This is important since presently exemplification is a key to the theory of fallacies. Our paper aims at examining both what a fallacy is and what an example is.