

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

The Crucible: Rhetoric, Deductive and Inductive Reasoning, and Logical Fallacies

Rhetoric: Aristotle (384-322 BC) student of Plato is considered the father of the modern study of rhetoric.

The art of speaking or writing effectively.

The study of writing or speaking as a means of communication or persuasion.

The Rhetoric Triangle: Ethos-ethics, Pathos-emotion, Logos-logic.

Deductive Reasoning:

Deductive arguments are supposed to be water-tight.

Good deductive argument – both premises are true and conclusion must be true – there is certainty

The classic example of a deductively valid argument is:

(1) All men are mortal.

(2) Socrates is a man.

Therefore:

(3) Socrates is mortal.

Inductive Reasoning:

Inductive arguments needn't be as rigorous as deductive arguments in order to be good arguments.

Good inductive argument – if premises are true, conclusion may or may not be true, but it is likely – there is doubt.

Logical Fallacies: A logical fallacy is, roughly speaking, an error of reasoning. When someone adopts a position, or tries to persuade someone else to adopt a position, based on a bad piece of reasoning, they commit a fallacy.

Fallacy	Definition	Example from the play
Ad Hominem/Personal Attack		
Tu quoque		

Ad baculum/Appeal to Fear		
Post hoc (ergo propter hoc)		
Slippery slope		
False dilemma		
False authority		