# Getting familiar with . . . formal fallacies

**A. For each of the following fallacious arguments, identify which formal fallacy has been committed and explain your answer.**

**1.**
1. He's the president of the company or I'm a monkey's uncle.
2. Here is the memo announcing that he is president.
3. So, I'm obviously not a monkey's uncle.

**2.**
1. If I flip this switch, the light will come on.
2. I'm not flipping the switch.
3. Therefore, the light will not come on.

**3.**
1. It is either raining or storming.
2. It is certainly raining.
3. Thus, it is not storming.

**4.**
1. If you flip this switch, the light will come on.
2. The light is coming on.
3. Hence, you must be flipping the switch.

**5.**
1. If it drops below 0° C, either the roads will become icy or the water line will freeze.
2. It is -5° C (below 0°).
3. So, either the roads will become icy or the water line will freeze.
4. The roads are icy.
5. Therefore, the water line is probably not frozen.

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**B. For each of the following arguments, construct the formal fallacy indicated by filling in the missing premise and conclusion:**

**1. Affirming the disjunct**
1. Either the Bulls will win or the Suns will.
2. _____
3.

**2. Denying the antecedent**
1. They will break up if she doesn't tell him the truth.
2. _____
3.

**3. Affirming the consequent**
1. If the road is wet, your tires won't have as much traction.
2. _____
3.

**4. Affirming the disjunct**
1. Don't spoil it for everyone unless you like being ostracized.
2. _____
3.

**5. Denying the antecedent**
1. If the bar is close, it will be safe to drive home.
2. _____
3.

**6. Affirming the consequent**
1. Toyota trucks will outsell Ford trucks only if Ford makes bad financial decisions.
2. _____
3.

**7. Affirming the consequent**
1. We will win only if we strengthen our defense.
2. _____
3.

**8. Affirming the consequent**
1. We'll starve if we don't get something to eat.
2. _____
3.

**9. Affirming the disjunct**
1. They will break up unless she is honest.
2. _____
3.

**10. Denying the antecedent**
1. If we win, we're going to the state championships.
2. _____
3.