**Informal Fallacy Workbook I**

For each of the following passages determine whether an argument is present. If an argument is present, then first identify the main conclusion and then determine whether the argument involves fallacious reasoning. If a fallacy is present, briefly state why you think the fallacy is present.

1. The economy is doing well. So every sector of the economy is doing well.

2. Every part of the table is made of wood. So, the table is made of wood.

3. The mayor is in favor of improving housing conditions in the city. And he has argued for it on the basis of increasing the quality of life for the people that live in the city. However, he stands to gain monetarily from the contracts associated with the housing conditions. So, we should not vote for improving housing conditions.

4. It is harmful to use a knife to cut someone open. So, doctors should refrain from surgery.

5. We don’t know what they are doing. And they don’t know what we think.

6. I saw Jerome at the store just before the clerk was shot. So, Jerome shot the clerk.

7. We shouldn’t eat meat. Look at how poorly the animals are treated. Don’t you feel bad?

8. We cannot give in to the employee demands for higher salaries. If we given them higher salaries, next they will want more benefits. If we give them more benefits, then they will want a shorter workweek. If we give them a shorter workweek, then they will want longer vacations. All of this will lead to a loss of profits in a couple of years, in which case we will have to get rid of the employees. So, we cannot give them higher salaries.

9. Three of the areas where we looked for housing in the Bay Area were overpriced. So, the Bay Area is over priced.

10. We searched methodically for the missing documents in the office. We didn’t find them. So, they are probably not there.

11. If someone loves flying planes, then they should buy one. Mary says she loves flying planes. So, she should buy one.

12. Elizabeth’s parents are racists. And she was born and raised in a racist neighborhood. So, Elizabeth is a racist.

13. Johnny says sexist comments frequently. And he has a sexist father. So, he might be a sexist.

14. I ran 2 miles at a pace of 7 minutes a mile. So, I can run a marathon at 7 minutes a mile.

15. The Vietnam War was more deadly than the Korean War, since more bombs were dropped in the Vietnam War than were dropped in the Korean War.

16. Tomorrow the sun will rise, since everyday before the sun has come up, and the future is more likely to resemble the past than to break drastically from the past.

17. God exists, since God could only have created our idea of God.

18. In the past 7 elections a male has won the presidential office. So, in this election a woman is going to win.

19. Most people like Extra Strength Aspirin. So, you should buy Extra Strength Aspirin.

20. If you don’t sign the treaty, then we will bomb your country. So, you better sign the treaty.

21. There is no reason to vote for someone who is neither a Democrat nor a Republican. History shows us that only members from either of those parties win.

22. Drugs are illegal. So, drug stores should be closed.

23. The Governor has lied in the past. So, his argument for why we should conserve water should not be accepted.

24. It is nice to go to the bank for a picnic. So, you should go to Bank of America.

25. Chad goes to the bar every night and he gets drunk. He never makes it home, and he ends up sleeping in the street. So, he should move closer to the bar.

26. Capital punishment is morally wrong, since it is wrong to intentionally kill someone.

28. Taxing people who make 100,000 or less at a different rate than people who make 500,000 or more is not right. For, the difference in income does not justify a difference in taxation.

29. You can either have a bad job and children or a good job and no children. Since you want a good job, you shouldn’t have children.

30. Marriage is a relationship between a single man and a single woman. So, it makes no sense for a society to acknowledge non-heterosexual relationships between two or more partners.

31. The economy is bad because there are not enough jobs.

32. Every part of the university functions poorly. So, the university functions poorly.

33. We should build a wall between the US and Mexico. Terrorism is a big problem.

Look at what happened during 9/11. We let in too many people from the Middle East on student visas and work visas. Clearly, we need to protect our borders.

34. Have you stopped doing drugs?

35. The institution of punishment by way of imprisonment is very useful. For without it we would have no way of punishing people, and we need some way to punish people for the crimes they commit.

36. Light is very important for plant life. It is a major ingredient in the mechanisms by which they develop.

38. The inner city is more dangerous than the suburbs, since there is more crime in the inner city. Given that the inner city is more dangerous, there must be more murders in the inner city than in the suburbs.

39. A fetus is a person. Killing a person intentionally is murder. So, abortion is murder.

40. Capital punishment, that is the death penalty, deters crime; since states in which the death penalty is used have lower crime rates than those that do not.

41. If humans are designed to be omnivores, that is creatures that can eat vegetables and meat, it follows we should eat meat. We are designed to be omnivores, since our teeth can tear meat and our stomachs can digest meat. So, we should eat meat.

42. Racism involves unfair discrimination on the basis of race, and it is wrong. Sexism involves unfair discrimination on the basis of sex, and it is wrong. Speciesism involves unfair discrimination on the basis of species. Speciesism is just like racism and sexism. So, speciesism is wrong.

43. Employment numbers in California are strong. So, poverty rates must be low.

44. Senator Reynolds proposes that we should regulate recycling more. But he stands to gain a great deal monetarily if he regulates a lot more. So, we should not adopt his policy.

45. The New England Patriots have won the last 12 games, so they are going to lose their next game.

47. People who drink 2 cups of coffee a day are more likely to have cancer than people who do not drink coffee. So, coffee causes cancer.

48. We need more money for cleaning the oceans. And we need more education for protecting our oceans.

49. All SJSU students must take a critical thinking course in area A3. Martha graduated from SJSU. She entered as a freshman and graduated 4 years later without taking any breaks. So, Martha took a critical thinking course.

50. According to the New York Times there was a Bombing in NY in Manhattan and in New Jersey. There is now a search for a person from Afghanistan. So, this was a terrorist attack committed by someone from Afghanistan.