

Characters: Therapist, Patient, Friend

The patient is lying down/sitting in a chair like they do in a therapy session

Patient

I don't know, doc, I mean, it's just been so hard since she left me. It feels like life doesn't have any meaning anymore. Sometimes I wake up in the morning, and I remember that she's gone, and the thought of her hits me so strongly that I can't even bring myself to leave the house. I mean, the other day, I made two cups of coffee, and I didn't even realize until I went to call her down and she wasn't there. It's just so hard, you know?

Therapist
Appeal to pity.

Patient
What?

Therapist
That was an appeal to pity. You wanted me to feel bad for you, so you can win me over.

Patient
Of course I want you to feel bad. You're supposed to be on my side! Why are you on her side instead of mine?

Therapist
Woah, woah, woah. That's a false dilemma. I don't need to choose either of you.

Patient
A false dilemma? Did you get a — a false *diploma* or something?
Why can't I just talk without you turning it into some kind of vocabulary lesson?
You are a *therapist*. Therapize.

Therapist
Ad hominem. But fine. Tell me again how it wasn't your fault that she left you.

Patient
Look, I forgot to take out the trash ONE time. That basically means I'm actually LESS likely to forget again.

Therapist
Gambler's fallacy. The odds don't change. Evidently. Also, didn't you say she'd asked you before, and you didn't listen?

Patient

Well... yeah... but if I told her she was right ONE time, she'd think she was ALWAYS right. And then she'd think she was better than me, and then if robbers broke in at night, she'd totally use me as a human shield, and then I'd die!

Therapist

(they sigh)

Slippery slope fallacy. And an Olympic-level one. Did you ever try expressing any of these feelings to her?

Patient

So you're saying I should've yelled at her? That's terrible advice!

Therapist

That's a strawman...and not at all what I said?

Patient

I guess you didn't. Darn.

(they look dejected)

Maybe I AM the worst person ever. Maybe I SHOULD just disappear so no one ever has to deal with me again.

Therapist

And that's an appeal to emotion. The logical argument here doesn't rely on how you feel.

Patient

But... I'm here to talk about how I feel. Duh.

Therapist

Well, you should be more careful with your verbiage then. Also, appeal to ridicule.

Patient

You just don't understand. My grandma died while my mom was pregnant with my older brother. Everything I do today — all of my problems — is because of that. I was set up to fail.

Therapist

That's a non sequitur. It doesn't fit into your argument. And also a little bit of appeal to circumstance.

Patient

Okay, well, not EVERYthing in life is an argument! You don't have to be picking apart each thing I say.

Therapist

It seems like everything in YOUR life is an argument.

(they sigh)

Darn. Appeal to ridicule. My bad.

Patient

See! You made a fallacy too! Your whole argument is flawed!

Therapist

Mmm. Textbook example of the fallacy fallacy. One error in logic doesn't condemn the entire argument.

Patient

You know you are — absolutely insufferable. You're just biased because you hate love. I don't need to take this nonsense from you.

The patient storms away.

Therapist

(calling after them)

Appeal to motive! And also not true.

Cut to the patient. They are now standing outside, dialing a number on the phone.

Patient

Hey, dude. That so-called counselor you referred me to? They were terrible! There's no way they're a real therapist.

Friend

(over the phone)

Oh, really?

(pause)

That sounds like an appeal to purity.

End Skit