**Unit 3 Handout 3: Arguments, Fallacies and Line of Reasoning**

**A. Definitions**

Argument: A claim or thesis that conveys a perspective developed through a line of reasoning and supported by evidence

Fallacy: a mistaken belief, especially one based on unsound argument; a failure in reasoning that renders an argument invalid. An argument is considered a fallacy when a combination of statements, ideas, or features of a situation are opposed to one another.

Line of Reasoning: a course of reasoning aimed at demonstrating a truth or falsehood; the methodical process of logical reasoning. Synonym: logical argument.

**B. Argument**

We’ve just read an article and I say to you, “Alright, so what is the author’s argument?”

1. I’m asking you to state her thesis,
2. which should be stated in 1-2 sentences max,
3. and is in your own words, not quoting the text,
4. because College Board often gives texts with two-part arguments in the EOC Exam; you won’t be right if you quote the argument in one sentence.
5. Make note: in some contexts, CB uses the words argument, [main] claim, main idea, and/or thesis interchangeably.

You just wrote a 1st draft and I say to you, “Your arguments must make sense, so for peer review we’re looking at the structural choices you made in terms of organization and logic.” (multiple claims to prove the argument)

1. I’m asking you to look at your essay’s organization,
2. because there are infinite possibilities in which you could construct and order your points and evidence,
3. and you need to understand that choice is involved to properly analyze the construction of other’s arguments.

College Board uses the word ‘argument’ in two different contexts. You need to know and understand them both and learn to know what is being asked. In short, these are two very different questions: “What is the author’s argument?” “How does the author convey her argument?”

LOOK AT THE POWERPOINT:

*What is the argument of each image:*

*1.*

*2.*

*3.*

*Which image best depicts the Feminism? Make an argument.*

**C. Fallacy**

You do not need to know these fallacies by name, but on the EOC will you need to be able to state that read a fallacy and explain how it is a fallacy.

