

20
20

Andrew

After one takes an in-depth examination of the essay, the biases in the author's point of view become very apparent. Several logical fallacies in her assertions exist. Over the course of the essay the author cites three examples to support her point that the motives of homeschooling parents are flawed, yet makes no mention of any examples that would contradict her position (i.e. 50 out of every 1000 public school students were the victims of a violent crime in school last year¹). Furthermore, she commits a *hasty generalization* logical fallacy when she hints to these examples as being an accurate description of homeschooling in general. In the fourth paragraph, the author makes the claim that homeschooled students do better only because their parents have a higher income and usually have a higher educational background. In this case, she commits a logical fallacy known as *begging the question* by providing no evidence to support her assertion. On the contrary, it only makes sense that homeschooling families have a *lower* income than most, because one parent usually stays at home to educate the children. The author commits yet another *begging the question* logical fallacy when she declares that homeschooled students are "socially isolated." At the end of her description of the Home School Legal Defense Association, she uses slanted language and one published headline (with no additional information about what the article said) to insinuate that the association loves to bash the motives of public school teachers. This is known as an *Ad Hominem* attack, another logical fallacy that goes to discredit her contention. It is evident through her statements, that the author has a clear bias against homeschoolers and their parents. Instead of writing to persuade, she tries to force her position as fact by generalizing with confrontational, rhetorical sound bytes.

Really well done!
Would you be willing to
send an electronic
copy of this to me?
I'd like to post your
response to Blackboard
as an exemplary model
of the level of academic
inquiry an
assignment like this
requires.

¹ National Center for Educational Statistics- Executive Summary of Indicators of School Crime and Safety Report, 2004