

Twitter Thread by Shreyas Doshi



Shreyas Doshi

@shreyas



A surprisingly high % of stupid arguments & fights on Twitter are rooted in a tiny number of fairly obvious fallacies.

Stupid arguments & the fallacies that feed them, a thread:

Fallacy 1/

Just because it's true that all squares are rectangles, you argued that all rectangles must be squares. (And you did it with so much swagger.)

Example of Fallacy 1

X says: Successful people aren't afraid of hard work.

Y argues: That's BS. I work 90 hours a week at Tech Co and am still stuck in this dead-end job.

Fallacy 2/

Just because you found an exception to a general pattern, you argued that the entire pattern is false.

Example of Fallacy 2

X says: Venture capital is useful for startups.

Y argues: Not true. Foo's startup took VC money and they crashed & burned.

Z piles on: I agree with Y. In fact, Bar's startup did not take VC money and it's worth a bajillion.

Fallacy 2'/

Just because you found an exception to a general pattern, you argued that the exception *is* the pattern.

(further examples are left as an exercise for the reader)

Fallacy 3/

Just because you did not agree with one small aspect of what someone said, you argued that it makes sense to ignore everything they said.

Fallacy 4/

Just because you found one thing missing in a list of generally useful things, you argued that the entire list is useless.

Fallacy 5/

Just because a thing worked for you, you argued that everyone should do that thing, all the time.

Fallacy 5'/

Just because a thing worked for Musk / Bezos / Jobs / [insert your idol], you argued that everyone should do that thing, all the time.

Fallacy 6/

Just because a thing worked for you, you argued that no one should do the opposite of that thing, ever, under any circumstance.

Fallacy 6'/

Just because a thing worked for Musk / Bezos / Jobs / [insert your idol], you argued that no one should do the opposite of that thing, ever, under any circumstance.

Fallacy 7/

Just because a good idea wouldn't work if "everyone did it", you argued that it is in fact a terrible idea and *no one* should do it.

While this thread won't solve any of the bad faith conversations that unfortunately happen on Twitter, I hope it can help prevent some of the good faith conversations from taking a stupid turn.

Did I miss any other fallacies?