

3.4 Exercises

Iraq War In Exercises 1–8, outline the invalid syllogism and identify the logical fallacy. (See Examples 1 and 2.)

1. A politician states, “If something is not there, you will not find it. We did not find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. So, there are no such weapons in Iraq.”
2. A representative states, “If Saddam had shipped his weapons out of Iraq, we would not have found them. We didn’t find Saddam’s weapons, so he must have shipped them out of Iraq.”
3. A radio show host says, “If we found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, it would prove that Iraq had such weapons. We haven’t found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and this proves that Iraq did not have such weapons.”
4. A political pundit states, “If the war in Iraq made America safer, there will have been no major terrorist attack since we invaded. There hasn’t been any such attack. So, the war made America safer.”
5. A talk show host says, “If you support the war in Iraq, you support America. The senator doesn’t support the war, so he obviously doesn’t support America.”



Iraq has a rich cultural heritage. It was home to the ancient city of Babylon. The lion shown above is from Babylon’s Ishtar Gate, which was reconstructed at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, Germany.

6. An opinion columnist writes, “If a person is a great leader, then that person will do what he or she believes is right. George W. Bush did what he believed was right. He was a great leader.”
7. A political science professor says, “If we had overthrown Saddam in the first Gulf War, we would not be fighting in Iraq today. It is clear that we are fighting in Iraq as a consequence of our decision not to end Saddam’s regime in 1991.”
8. A senator states, “The United States invaded Iraq on the premise that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. Saddam did not have weapons of mass destruction, so the United States should not have invaded Iraq.”