

ENWR 106
Logical Fallacies

Leslie Marmon Silko, "The Man to Send Rain Clouds." (from Abarcarian, Klotz and Cohen, *Literature: The Human Experience*).

Writing Question:

What point of view about religion – native American, Roman Catholic, or the two – is advanced in Leslie Marmon Silko's "The Man to Send Round Clouds"? Spend some time reviewing the details of the story to understand how to interpret the poem as articulating a particular claim or idea about religion(s).

Workshop Activity:

1. Read the short story, marking as you normally would (this is your copy to keep).
2. Role 1: Writer
 - a. Review the list of Logical Fallacies below (and detailed in Hacker, among other sources) and choose three for which to write simple exemplary statements. The point is to try to write a logical fallacy in response to the writing question posed above, or simply in response to the story itself.
 - b. Based on one of your logical fallacies, draft a logically fallacious argument (or simply a bad argument) in response to this question. You can have fun and be a little bit ridiculous.
3. Role 2: Teacher-Reader
 - a. After exchanging papers, respond to the writer as a teacher-reader, suggesting ways to re-frame, re-write the argument. In other words, teacher comment!

Common Logical Fallacies (Drawn from Hacker, 77-84)

1. Hasty generalization
2. False analogy (unreasonable)
3. Post hoc (post hoc, ergo propter hoc = after this, therefore because of this)
4. Either...or (and nothing else)
5. Non sequitor (=does not follow)
6. Argument based on a questionable premise
7. Unfair emotional appeal (often using biased language, ad hominem attacks, bandwagon appeal, or red herring)
8. Straw man fallacy (deliberate misrepresentation of another's opinion to enable the writer to counter)
9. Misleading quotation