Riverside Community College   Name _____
Writing and Reading Center
Directed learning Activity CT.D.2a   Date _____

Logical Fallacies #1

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will be able to define the term "logical fallacy" and will learn about several different fallacies. **This DLA should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.**

1.   Go to the following website to review logical fallacies: http://www.fallacyfiles.org/introtof.html

2.   Once at the website, read the definition of a logical fallacy; then, travel to the "Complete Alphabetical List of Fallacies" (on the left), and read the definitions of "Appeal to/Argument From" Fallacies, specifically "Authority", "Pity", and "Fear" (note: both Fear and Pity will lead to the Emotional Appeal page).

3.   Answer the following questions on the back of this sheet:

        A.   What is a logical fallacy? (in your own words)

        B.   What are three of the major ways that an Appeal to Authority can go wrong?

        C.   When is an Appeal to Emotion NOT a fallacy?

4.   Label the following as Appeal to Authority, Appeal to Pity, Appeal to Fear, or Not a Fallacy.

        a.   A supervisor tells his employee that he has to write him up for being late to work for the third time. The employee says "Please don't write me up! If I get fired, I'll lose my house and be homeless!"
             _____

        b.   Senator Jones holds a press conference at which she says "If we don't bail out the banking industry, the whole economy will collapse. Therefore, I am going to request a bailout."
             _____

        c.   A commercial for toothpaste says that four out of five dentists surveyed would recommend this particular brand of toothpaste to their patients.
             _____

        d.   A presidental candidate brings a young man on stage at a political rally to tell his emotional story of how the candidate's government program had helped him stop using drugs and alcohol and get a job that he still holds. The audience hears specifically how the program has worked for this man.
             _____

    5.   Meet with a professor to go over your answers. Be sure to explain the reasoning behind your choices.

Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:

Instructor Signature:_____ Date: _____