POSITION ON DODGEBALL IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION / THE WEAK SHALL INHERIT THE GYM

Reading Skill

ANALYZE RHETORIC AND REASONING

When reading an argument, look for fallacies. A *rhetorical fallacy* is writing that is false or misleading. A *logical fallacy* is an error in reasoning. Here are three common fallacies:

- **Loaded terms** words or phrases with strongly positive or negative connotations. Using immature to describe a teenager casts the person in a more negative light than using young.

- **Leading questions** questions that contain their answers, such as, “You don’t want all the forests to disappear, do you?”

- **Caricatures** cartoon-like portrayals of opposing arguments, such as, “They want you to go around hugging trees.”

**Directions:** Use the chart to write down any fallacies you find and note their locations. Include the text’s line numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fallacies</th>
<th>“Position on Dodgeball in Physical Education”</th>
<th>“The Weak Shall Inherit the Gym”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loaded terms</td>
<td>Loaded terms: lines 47–49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright © Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt