

“TACTICS” – SESSION 4

- I. Different “tactics” to exploit a flaw.
 - A. This is called the **suicide** tactic.
 1. It is a self-refuting claim or argument.
 2. Spot points of view that actually commit suicide.
 3. Identify a suicide tactic called “sibling rivalry”.

- II. Self-refuting claim. Some arguments kill themselves. Your job is to just observe that it’s this kind of problem and then point it out.
 - A. Ex.: Peanuts cartoon. New philosophy. Say “no” to everything.
 - B. Ex.: I cannot speak a word in English. They just did.
 - C. Ex.: There are no sentences more than 5 words in length. This sentence is more than 5 words.
 - D. Ex.: You can’t know anything for sure. The skeptic is quite sure he’s right about this sentence. Are you sure about that? Yes. That refutes the sentence.
 - E. If it’s true, it’s false.
 - F. When a statement fails to satisfy its own criteria for validity, it is self-refuting.
 - G. Suicidal statements can’t satisfy their own standard.
 - H. Ex.: You shouldn’t be pushing your morality on me! You are pushing your morality on me now.
 - I. How to identify this. If the exact same reasons used > your view are also reasons that defeat the other person’s view then the other person is committing suicide in their argument.
 - a. Identify the basic claim or conviction.
 - b. Then ask: Does that claim apply to itself?
 - J. Some self-refuting claims are obvious. Ex.: I never, never repeat a word. Or... There is no truth. I used to believe in reincarnation, but that was in a former life.
 - K. Pay attention to people’s statements!!!! Ex.: You shouldn’t be correcting Xpn teachers on the radio.
 - L. Or... It’s wrong to judge. In that statement you are doing just that. It is self-refuting.
 - M. Ex.: It’s wrong for you to change other people’s religious view point. Are you doing that now?
 - N. Ex.: All religions are equally true and valid. Pluralism. If Jesus saves me, then He must also save others (if this is indeed true). Therefore, everyone needs Jesus. If Xpnty is true and it’s the only true religion then other religions can’t be true.
 - O. Ex.: You can only know what is proven by science. It only give you reliable truth. Give me scientific evidence for that!!! If you can’t then it can’t be true.
 - P. Ex.: God doesn’t take sides. Then God must agree with that statement. Is that your view? Then He is taking your side!!!!

- III. Sibling Rivalry Suicide --- at least part of a person’s objection gets defeated by itself.
 - A. Sibling rivalry happens when objections come in pairs that are inconsistent with each other.
 1. Ex.: Moral relativism – there is no right or wrong. Is your statement right or wrong?
 2. Why is there evil in the world? In moral relativism there can’t be evil in the world if morals are relative.
 3. Ex.: Richard Dawkins.
 4. Ex.: Animal rights activist and an atheist. Animals have a right not to suffer. I have a right to half of your income. A right is made up. True rights are given by God. We often just explain our “made-up right”. We are really just offering our preferences. A right is a “just claim”.

- IV. Homework. Be aware of points of view that self-destruct.