ATTACKING YOUR OPPONENT AND

Logical Argument

Questions or conclusions based on conditions with "if"

- If ..., why don't they just ...?
- What if ...?
- *And what happens if ...?*
- What would happen then if ...?
- *If that is so..., (then)*
- That would be true if...
- You would be right if...
- That would make sense if...
- *It'd be O.K. if ...*

Questions based on conditions with sentence adverbials "then" and "so"

- But if you... Then how do you go about ...?
- Then can you tell me what's wrong with ...?

Expressing Cause and effect

Cause

- The reason why... is ...
- The reason why ... is that ...
- *Due to* ...,...
- Because...
- Because of...
- Because...,
- Since...,
- ...is why...

Result

- For this reason,...
- For this reason alone, ...
- Owing to this, ...
- This is why ...
- That's why...
- This is the reason why ...
- Therefore
- So
- As a result
- Consequently, ...
- *Thus,...*

ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION

Clarification

Asking someone to repeat

- Pardon me?
- Pardon?
- Excuse me?
- Sorry?
- I'm sorry?
- I beg you pardon?
- Could you say that again?
- Would you repeat that please?
- Would you mind repeating that please?
- Sorry, what did you say?
- Sorry, what was that?
- What's that again?

When you can't follow the logical progression in someone's argument

- You lost me there.
- *I'm lost*.
- I'm not following.
- *I don't follow.*
- I didn't get that.

Asking for clarification through short Questions inviting illustration or example.

- Can you be a bit more specific?
- Are you saying that ...?.
- Are we talking about ...?

Clarification through "What" or "How" Questions inviting illustration or example.

- What's wrong with that?
- What's wrong with ...?.
- What do you mean?
- What do you mean by ...?
- What are you trying to say?
- In what way?
- How do you mean?
- Why do you say that?.
- Why is that
- Why not?
- Can you explain why ...?
- Why do you think that?