



## Tu quoque: Worksheet

*Part One: Read each question and succinctly but fully answer it.*

1. Define tu quoque.
2. What are some other names for tu quoque arguments?
3. Why are tu quoque arguments considered logical fallacies?
4. Why might an opponent use a tu quoque argument?

*Part Two: Read the provided exercises. Identify if the excerpt contains a tu quoque attack. If it does, underline the tu quoque. Then write a refuting statement for the attacked character to say in response.*

Exercise 1.

Dorothy: You need to stop hitting on every girl you come across, Silas.

Silas: Good afternoon to you too, Dorothy.

Dorothy: I'm serious. You're going to get into real trouble one of these days.

Silas: Oh, like you're one to talk. You keep finding reasons to compliment Edna.

Exercise 2.

Dimitri: You keep running off without any warning - you're going to give me a heart attack one of these days!

Sasha: You can't tell me what to do, old man!



Exercise 3.

Felix: Hey, Barb, can you help me practice this dance move?

Barbara: Sure! I'll fix your two left feet right after I send this text.

Felix: Oh, if you're busy, I can ask someone else.

Barbara: No, it's fine. What about the dance has you worried?

Exercise 4.

Hilda: Climate change is a very big issue. We've got to get companies to reduce their carbon footprints.

Marie: Yeah, that's exactly why you use plastic straws every morning - you really love the environment.

Hilda: Are you going to sign my petition or not?

Exercise 5.

Nadia: I hate superheroes.

Clark: Didn't you dress up as Batman last October?

Nadia: You're impossible to deal with.

Exercise 6.

Ingrid: I think Dorothy has a crush on you.

Edna: No way, she's totally dating Silas.

Ingrid: Silas? No way. Trust me on this, Edna.

Edna: Just like I should trust you with that cookie recipe? Yeah, no thanks.

## Tu quoque: Worksheet Answer Key

Part One: Answers will vary, but sample answers have been provided

1. Tu quoque is a type of ad hominem argument in which one discredits a position by asserting that the proponent has acted contradictory to their stated position.
2. Some other names for the tu quoque argument are the “you too” fallacy, appeal to hypocrisy, and personal inconsistency.
3. Tu quoque arguments are considered logical fallacies because one’s actions have little bearing on what is factually true. Rather than investigating the truth of the original argument, tu quoque statements attack the character of the speaker.
4. An opponent may use a tu quoque argument because they have changed their position since committing their prior act. The consequences of their past actions convinced them to change their beliefs and opinions of those actions, informing their current position.

Part Two:

Exercise 1: You keep finding reasons to compliment Edna. Refutations will vary.

Exercise 2: No tu quoque.

Exercise 3: No tu quoque.

Exercise 4: Yeah, that’s exactly why you use plastic straws every morning - you really love the environment. Refutations will vary.

Note: The speaker is using sarcasm to address the tu quoque.

Exercise 5: Didn’t you dress up as Batman last October? Refutations will vary.

Note: Nadia’s statement that Clark is “impossible to deal with” does indeed attack Clark’s person rather than his argument, but it does not point out any hypocritical flaw. Thus, Nadia’s statement is a general ad hominem attack rather than a tu quoque.

Exercise 6: Just like I should trust you with that cookie recipe? Refutations will vary.

Note: If students have a hard time believing this one is a tu quoque, change the sentence to, “What about the time I trusted you with that cookie recipe?” While Enda isn’t stating that Ingrid gives out poor love advice, she does point out a contradiction in her trustworthiness - a contradiction from a completely irrelevant field at that.