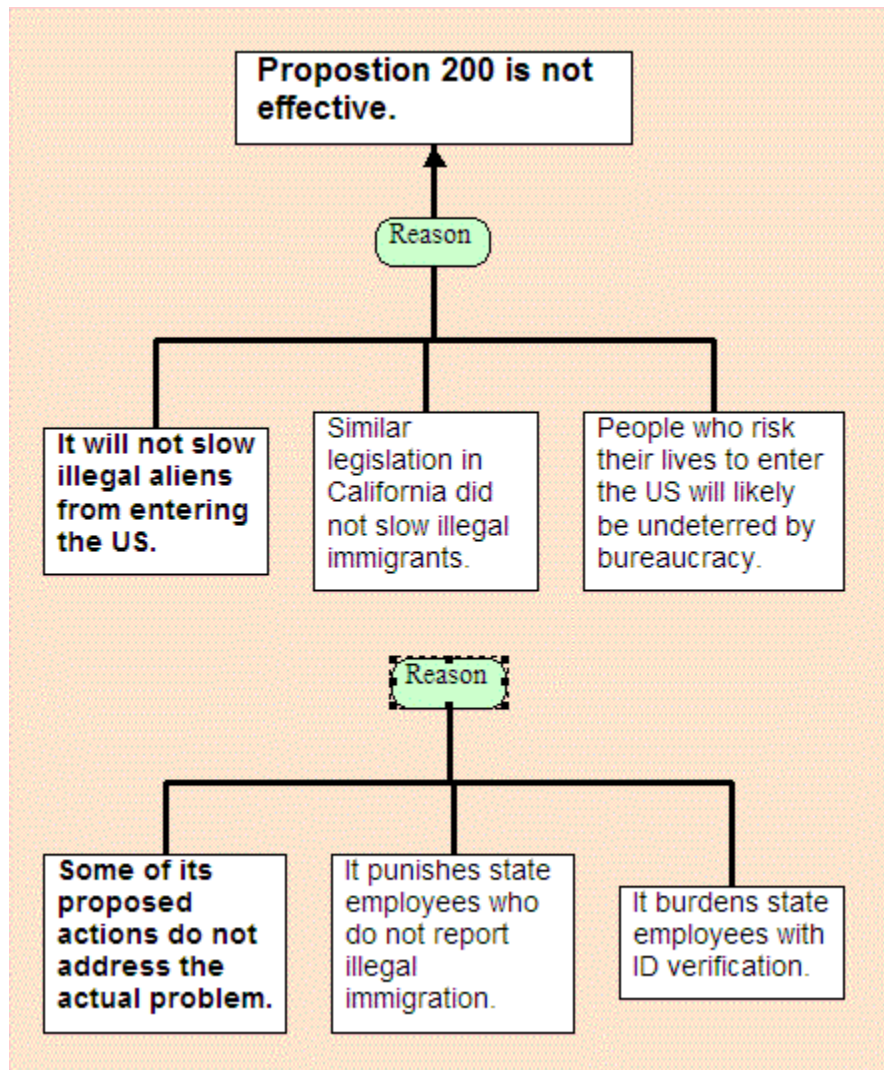


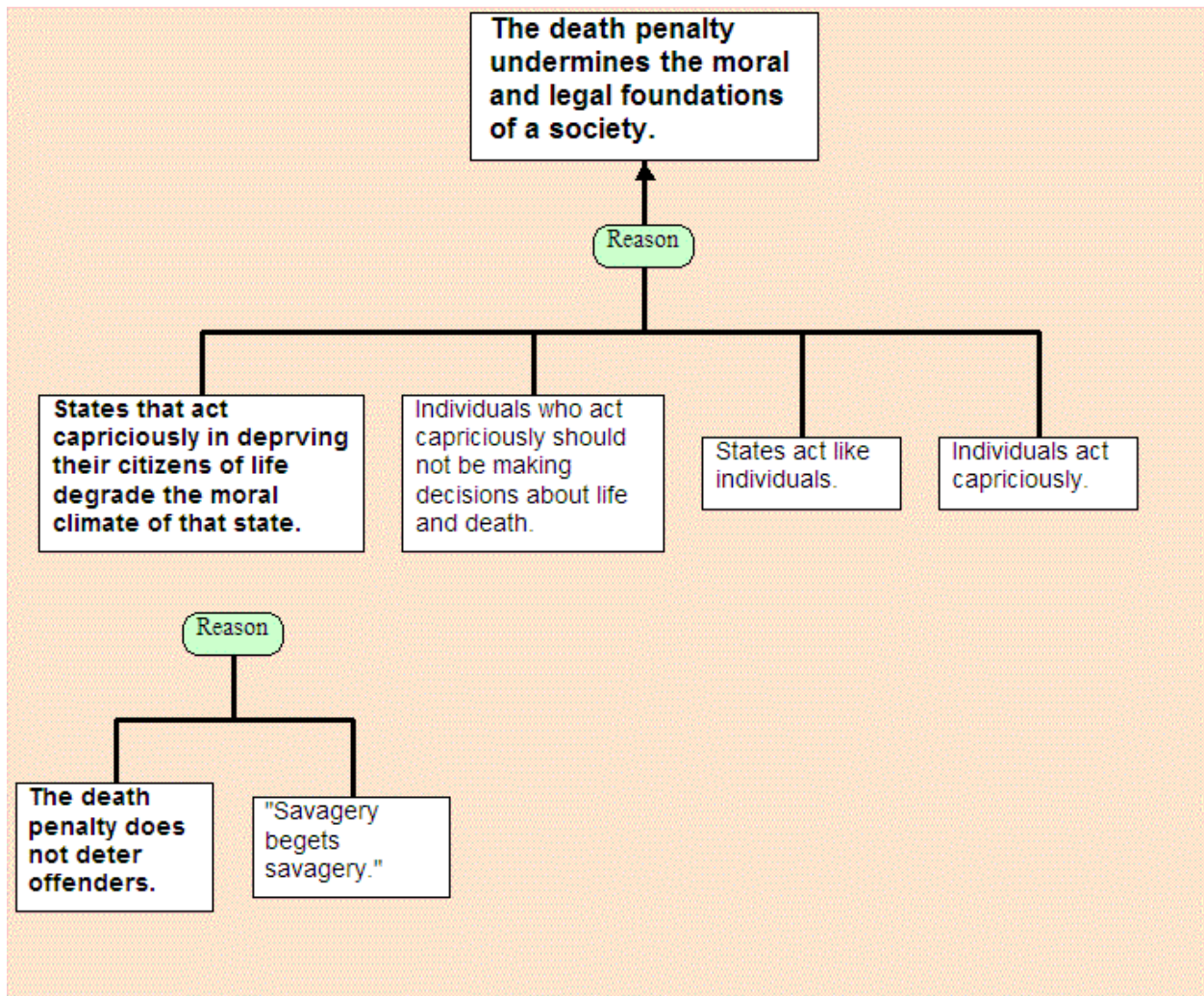
"Proposition 200's prescription is impractical on many points. While aiming to reduce the cost of illegal immigrants to the states, it unwisely punishes with fines or jail time state employees who don't report immigration violations, and burdens them with ID verification, among other things. More important, it probably won't stem the flow of illegals. If the possibility of dying in the desert won't stop an alien, a bureaucrat or piece of paper certainly won't. Congress responded to a similar 1996 ballot initiative in California by restricting access to certain federal help. That, too, has not stemmed the flow. The cry for better border control as heard from Arizona (and other states), as well as keeping out terrorists, requires more substantial immigration reform." From "The Christian Science Monitor," November 3, 2004.

**Explanation:** The second reason presented below is not clearly stated in the article, making it more difficult to find. It is implied in the use of the word "unwise," but even the implied link between the inadvisability of requiring state employees to report illegal immigration and the ineffectiveness of such action is not entirely clear. In fact, punishing state employees who do not report illegal immigration may stem an existing problem.



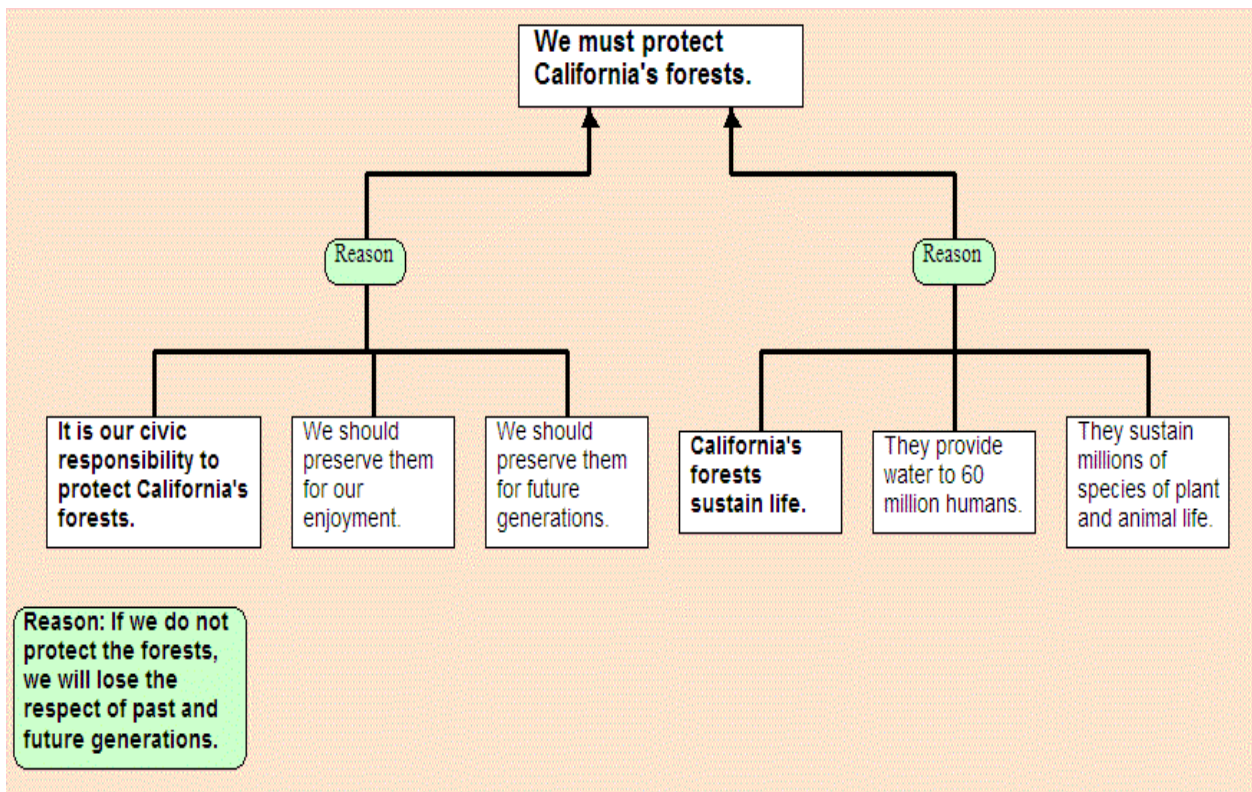
"I regard the death penalty as a savage and immoral institution which undermines the moral and legal foundations of a society. A state, in the person of its functionaries, who like all people are inclined to make superficial conclusions, who like all people are subject to influences, connections, prejudices and egocentric motivations for their behavior, takes upon itself the right to the most terrible and irreversible act—the deprivation of life. Such a state cannot expect an improvement of the moral atmosphere in its country. I reject the notion that the death penalty has any essential deterrent effect on potential offenders. I am convinced that the contrary is true—that savagery begets savagery." From Andrei Sakharov in "Matchbox", quoted in *An Introduction to Reasoning* by Stephen Toulmin, p. 65, 1979.

**Explanation:** While fairly clear in the argument map below, Sakharov's argument is difficult to reconstruct because it requires that we supply some of the missing pieces of the syllogism, which he supplies only implicitly and rhetorically. He asks us to accept that many individuals act capriciously (although he does not use this word). He then asks that we accept that, since states are composed of these same individuals, they, in turn, act like individuals. The missing piece that we must supply is the thought that those who act capriciously should not be allowed to make decisions about life and death. The secondary reason, although rhetorically powerful, does little to sustain the conclusion.



"As stewards of this great state, so rich in natural beauty, we must protect the California forests. Whether we like it or not, our civic responsibility requires the preservation of our natural resources, not only for our enjoyment, but for future generations. In addition, these forests provide clean drinking water to more than 60 million Americans, not to mention sustaining animal and plant life for millions more species. If there are no forests, no roadless vistas in which to hike, snowshoe, camp or merely stare at the stars around a campfire, then we will truly have lost our compass and the respect of both past and future generations." (*Los Angeles Times*, November 28, 2004, letter to the editor).

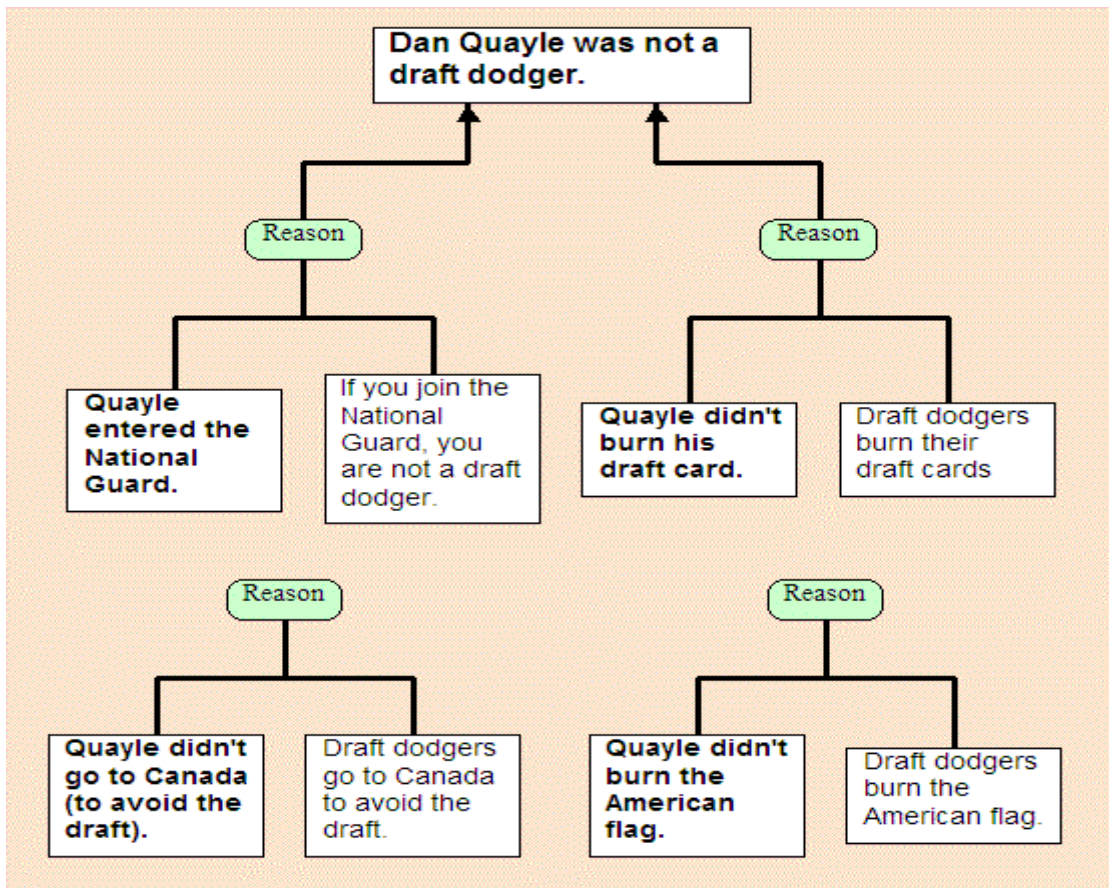
**Explanation:** The premises supporting the first reason do not align themselves with the reason very well, unless we add, "One of our civic duties is to protect the forests for our enjoyment" etc. The author does not state the second reason clearly. Instead, the author stated the premises without stating the reason. Finally, there are no premises supporting the third reason.



"Dan Quayle served in the National Guard, signing up in a unit that had vacancies at the time and now he is under shrill partisan attack.... True, he didn't go to Vietnam, but his unit wasn't sent. But there's another truth; he did not go to Canada, he did not burn his draft card, and he damned sure didn't burn the American flag!" (Cited in: Asking the Right Questions, Browne, Neil, and Keeley, Stuart, Prentice Hall, fifth edition, 1994, p. 78.)

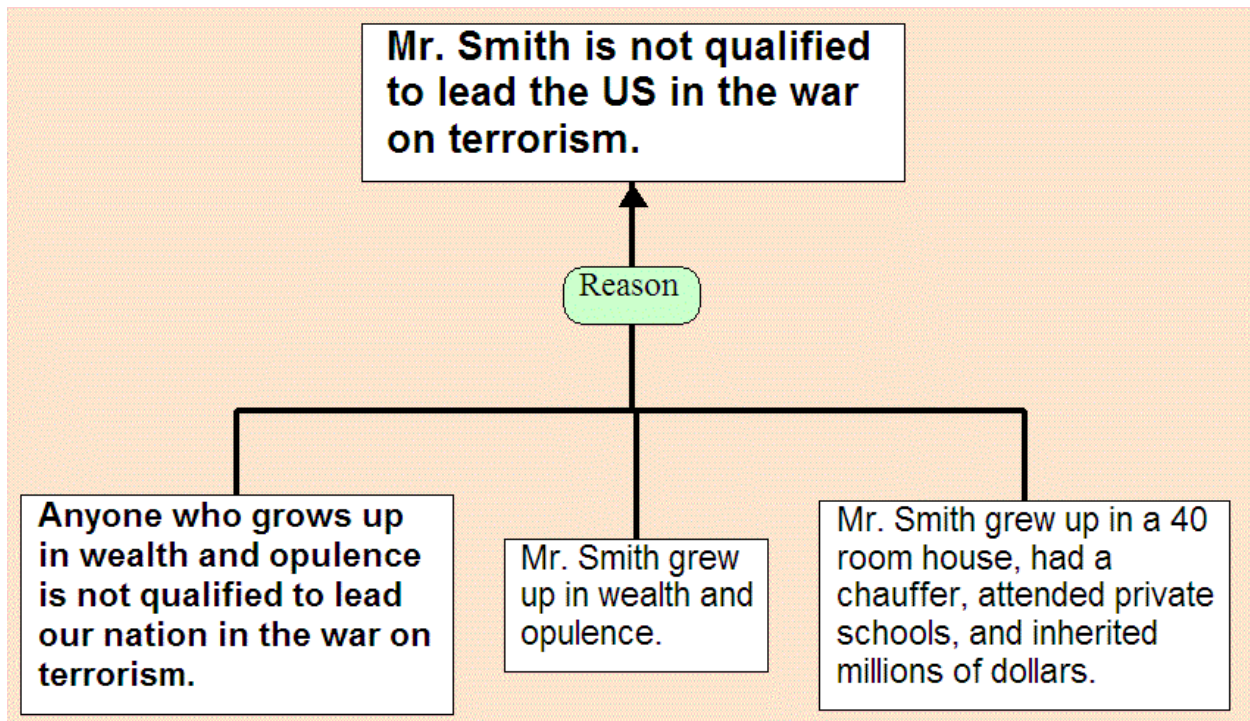
**Explanation:** The problem with the argument is that it addresses the wrong question. This is sometimes called the **fallacy of irrelevance**. Bush was being asked whether Dan Quayle used his family's influence to avoid him being sent to Vietnam, not whether he was a draft dodger. Bush ignores that Quayle's family could have used its influence to place Dan Quayle in a unit of the National Guard that was not destined for combat.

Interestingly, if the only question was whether Quayle was a draft dodger, his enlistment in the National Guard would have been sufficient to refute that accusation. The reasons that follow that one (going to Canada, burning his draft card, and burning the American flag) serve to divert the audience's attention from the main point.



The current candidate for the Presidency of the United States of America, Mr. Jonah Smith, claims that he can lead our great and proud nation in the most terrible battle in which we have ever been engaged: the battle on terrorism. He claims that he is qualified to lead us, to protect us, and to sustain the fight, no matter how long and how difficult. But we are too smart for his subtle tactics. We know what Mr. Smith is made of. If there is anyone who fits the caricature of one who grew up with a silver spoon in his mouth, it is Mr. Smith. Son of a textiles magnate who lived in a 40-room house as a child, Mr. Smith never knew a day of cares in his life. He was driven to school by a chauffer; he attended only the finest private schools; he inherited millions of dollars at the age of 21 and never worked a day in his life. I ask you: is a person who is so out of touch with reality qualified in any way to lead our nation into battle?

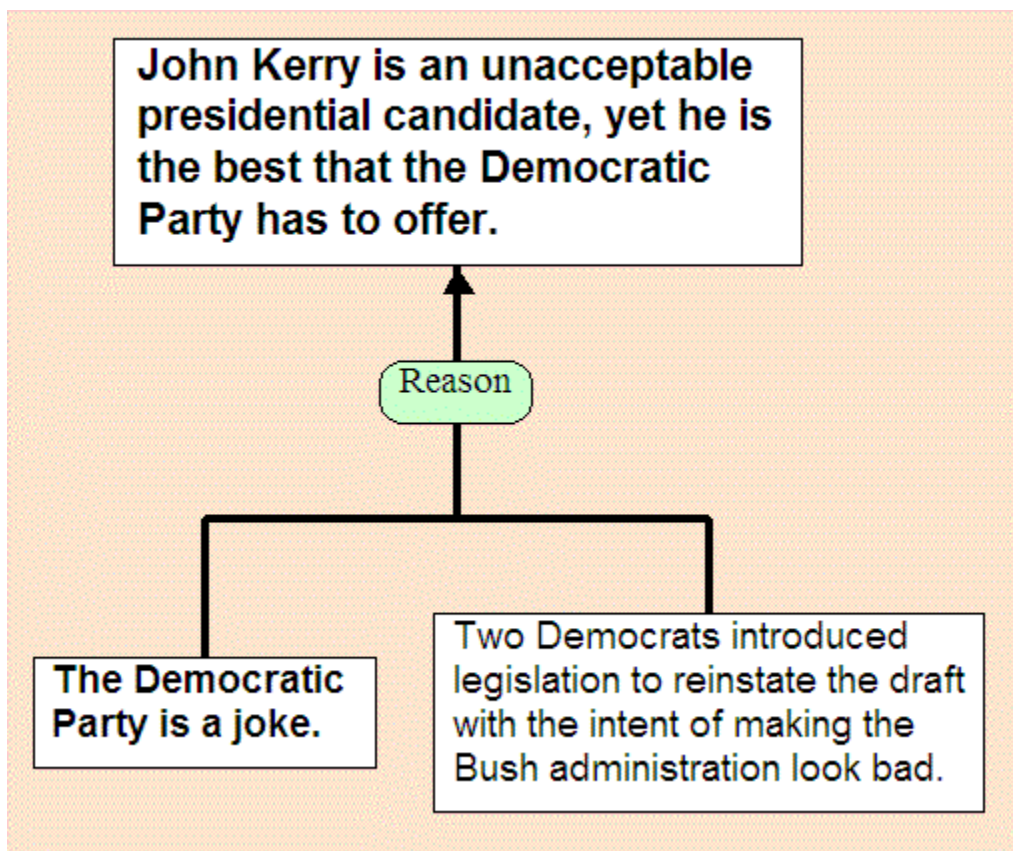
**Explanation:** This argument contains an *ad hominem* fallacy. William Hughes defines *ad hominem* as follows: "The *ad hominem* fallacy is committed when the premise of an argument provides information about the author of some statement in an attempt to show that this statement is false, when this information is irrelevant to the truth or the falsity of the statement."<sup>1</sup> In this case, Mr. Smith makes the statement that he is capable of leading the US in the war on terrorism. The information provided to show that his statement is false regards Smith's wealth and upbringing. It is an attack on Mr. Smith to show that his statement about his ability to lead a war on terrorism is false. (However, if it were true that "Anyone who grows up in wealth and opulence is not qualified to lead our nation in the war on terrorism," the argument would be valid).



<sup>1</sup> From William Hughes, Critical Thinking (p. 160)

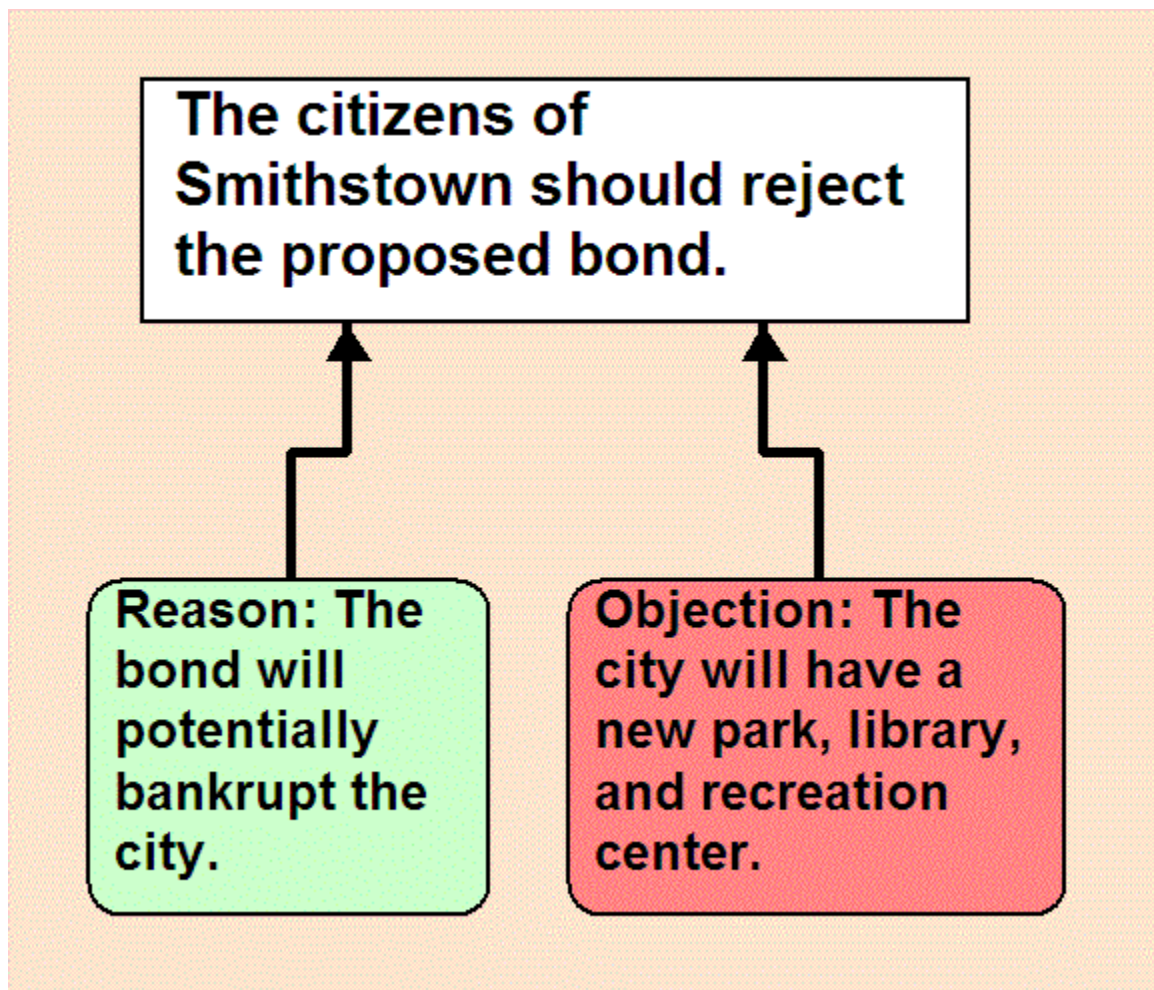
"On a more concerning note, a bill (or motion, or whatever you call it) has been introduced into Congress to re-institute the draft. Was it introduced by the Republicans?? Uhhhhhhh...no. Two Democrats introduced it (one of them being Congressman Rangel). Were they presenting it to actually bring the draft into being?? Uhhhhhhh...no. The intent was to portray to the American public that the "Bush Administration" wants to have the draft re-instituted. It was their HOPE that their names would not be tied to it, just that word would get out that Congress was looking to re-institute the draft. It was their HOPE that such info would be tied to the "warmongering" Bush-ite Republicans. Oops. What a joke of a party. It's no surprise Kerry is the best they have to offer." (Actual email from a friend. Name withheld for obvious reasons).

**Explanation:** This argument contains a variation of *ad hominem* because it attempts to show that something is true by attacking an individual. In this case, the conclusion is that John Kerry is an unacceptable presidential candidate. The reason is that the Democratic Party is a joke. The proof that the party is a joke comes from the example offered (The example, in fact, is untrue. They introduced the legislation with attempting to hide, and with no attempt to make President Bush look bad.)



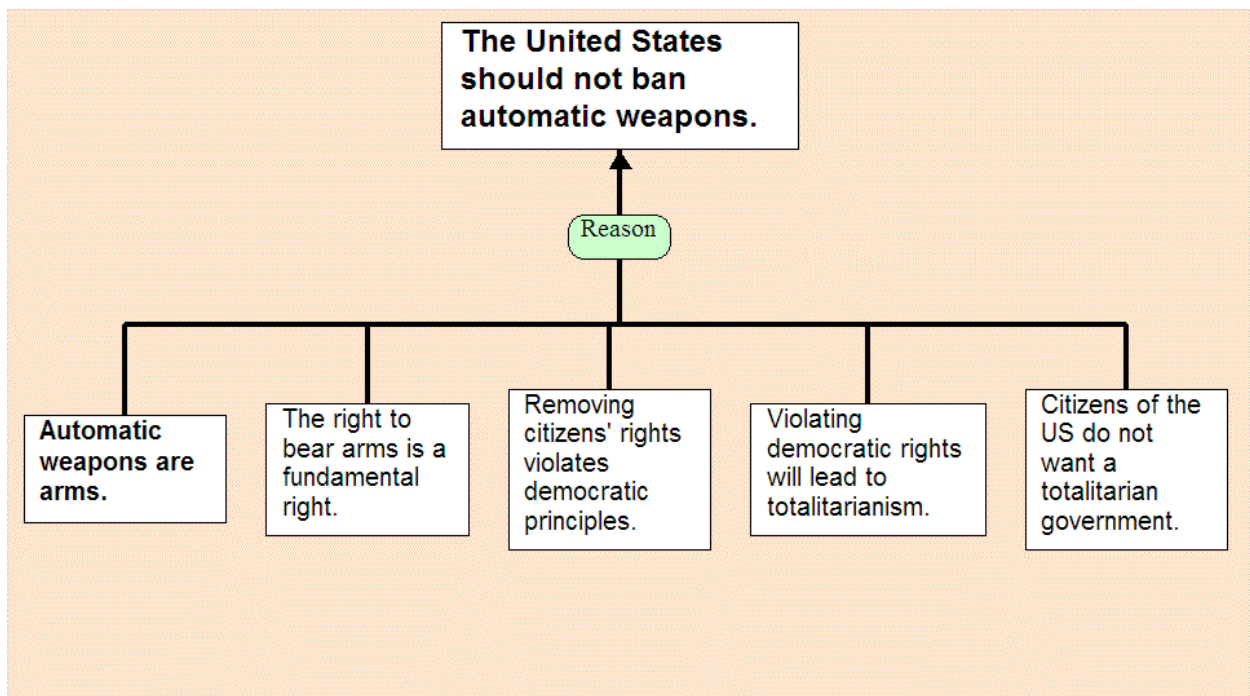
Today, the city of Smithstown is facing an important choice. The political elite of this fine city want to impose an inordinate debt upon its citizens. They tell us that the bond that they want us to support will bring us a new library, a new recreation center, and a new park. All of these things sound wonderful at first blush. All of these things have a huge cost associated with them—a cost we should not accept. So today, when you vote, *choose between the extravagant dreams of selfish politicians and the potential bankruptcy of our noble city.*

**Explanation:** This argument contains a common fallacy known as a **false dilemma**. This fallacy occurs when an argument presents two things as the only possible choices, when in fact there may be more choices. It is a fairly common ploy in public speaking, advertising, and casual conversation. One of the reasons that false dilemmas sound more convincing at first than they are after scrutiny is that they anticipate objections; this gives the impression that they have given the opposition equal consideration. Because so much of the prose is irrelevant to the argument, it is not easy to extract the basics of the argument. Once the argument map is made, however, the argument's simplistic nature and its underlying fallacy are easily visible.



One of the most fundamental rights that citizens of the United States have is the right to bear arms. It is a right that the writers of the Constitution included as an absolutely essential liberty for people to be free. Recently, some opponents of these liberties have tried to ban automatic weapons. If we ban automatic weapons, it will be that much easier to ban weapons of other kinds. Banning our right to bear arms means taking away a fundamental liberty; once the government is allowed to do that, it can more easily restrict other liberties. Once the government has the right to restrict liberties, it moves away from a democratic government toward being a totalitarian government. We all saw what happened with Communism. The citizens of the United States do not want a totalitarian regime. We're not Communists: we're Americans.

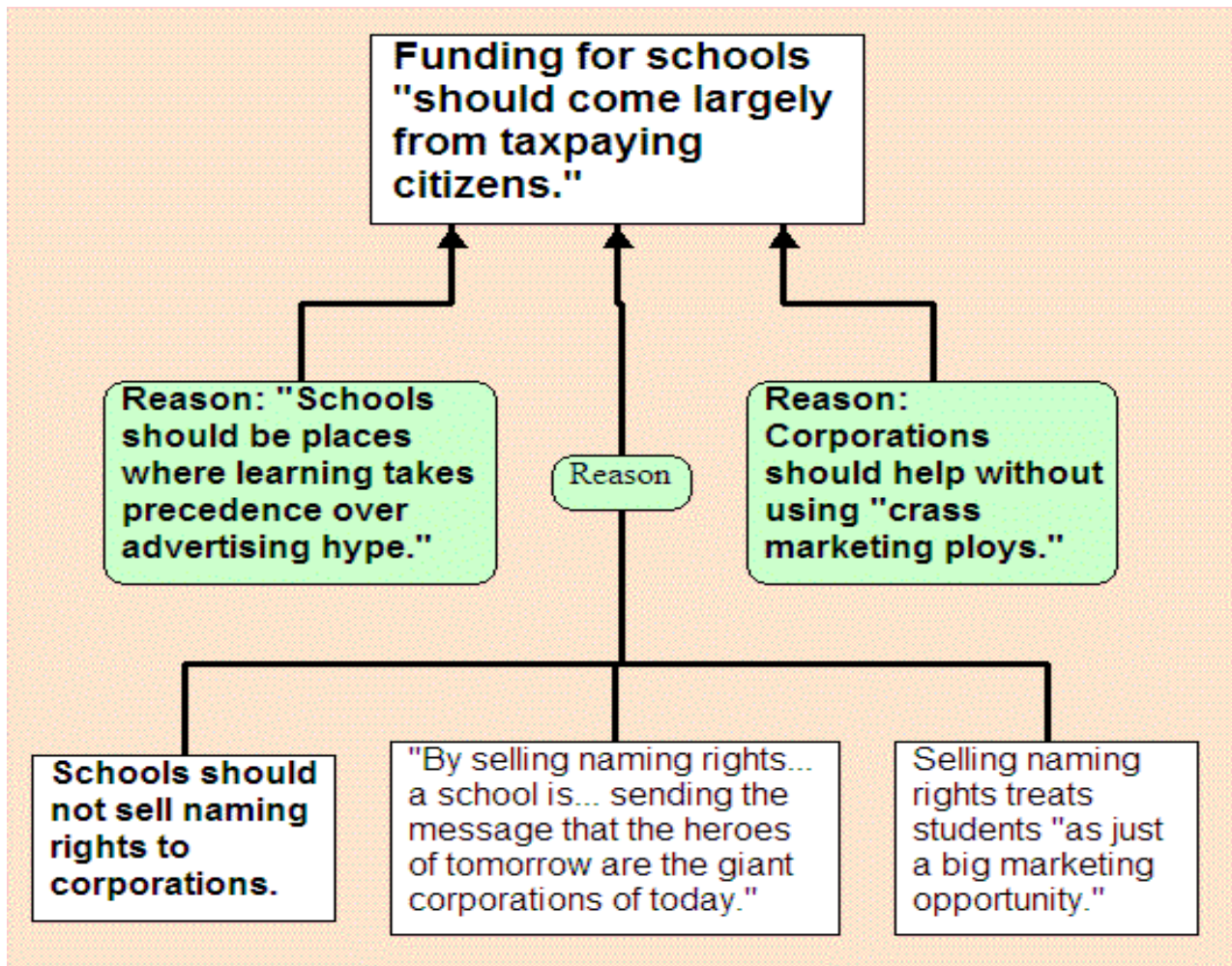
Explanation: This is an example of a **slippery slope fallacy**. Slippery slope fallacies rely upon sequential logic that show undesirable outcomes to be the result of a certain action or proposition. While no one would initially think that banning automatic weapons leads to totalitarianism, the logic tries to show that banning any kind of weapon (of which automatic weapons are but one kind) is a violation of fundamental rights or liberties. The argument map shows the line of reasoning ending in the truth that citizens of the US do not want a totalitarian government.



"A new high school in Philadelphia is more likely to be named after Wal-Mart than Walt Whitman. That's because the public school district wants to sell the school name for a cool \$5 million. Not only is the name for this state-of-the-art school up for sale, but so are names for separate classrooms, the auditorium, and other sections of the building, A school official says those additional naming rights could me upwards of \$15 million for the project. (On the plus side, no alcohol or tobacco companies are allowed to make bids).

"How much is too much when it comes to a commercial presence in public schools—especially when advertising has already pervaded those schools through vending machines, scoreboards, and banners? Many school districts rely on state lotteries to help fund education costs—a less than reliable, or honorable, source of income. If corporations want to help schools, they should also be helping to show students that corporate citizenship doesn't have to involve crass marketing ploys, such as plastering a corporate name on a public building. Microsoft, for instance, is offering considerable expertise in building the new school in Philly, but not attaching its name to it.

"Schools typically are named after Americans of extraordinary achievement—noted leaders, astronauts, athletes—or heroes who served as role models for kids. By selling naming rights to a company, a school unfortunately is sending he message that the heroes of tomorrow are the giant corporations of today, with students seen mostly as just a big marketing opportunity. Schools should be places where learning takes precedence over advertising hype. And their funding should come largely from taxpaying citizens." ("What Shouldn't Be In a Name", *The Christian Science Monitor*, November 3, 2004, p. 8).



I don't think that that company should be allowed to run our concession business for the Little League. There have been a lot of complaints that the food isn't hot enough, and I've heard of people waiting in line for 45 minutes before being served. This kind of thing didn't happen last year. Last year we always had hot food and the lines were a lot shorter.

**Explanation:** Despite the fact that this is a very simple argument, there is much to discuss. It contains a logical fallacy known as *appeal to anonymous authority*. We are not told who complained that the food was not hot, and we do not know how often this has occurred. We also don't know how many people waited for 45 minutes, nor if this is a reliable estimate. (People commonly exaggerate their wait when they become impatient). Finally, we don't know why the lines were shorter last year—perhaps they were shorter because fewer games were being played, because the food was bad, or because games were only played after 7:00 PM. These potential objections demonstrate the need to verify evidence and to discuss the particulars of premises if an argument's conclusion hangs upon few debatable premises. I have included objections even though they are not part of the original argument.

