

The Mormon Apologetics Playbook: A Critical Look

Mormon apologetics refers to the practice of making reasoned arguments to justify the truth claims of the LDS Church.

Manipulating the Narrative

Redefining Words to Resolve Problems



Terms like "translation" and "skin" are reinterpreted to avoid historical and scientific contradictions.

The Past is a "Foreign Country" Defense



Excusing problematic history (e.g., polygamy, racism) by claiming we cannot judge past events by modern standards.



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PROPHET
(God's Voice)

MAN
(Mistakes)

The "Prophet vs. Man" Escape Clause

Disavowing harmful or incorrect teachings by claiming the prophet was "speaking as a man," not for God.

Misrepresenting the Evidence

Starting with the Conclusion

"Any evidence I find I will try and fit into [the] paradigm... that the church is true."

Kerry Muhlestein, BYU Egyptologist, on fitting evidence to a pre-existing belief.

Cherry-Picking "Hits" While Ignoring Misses

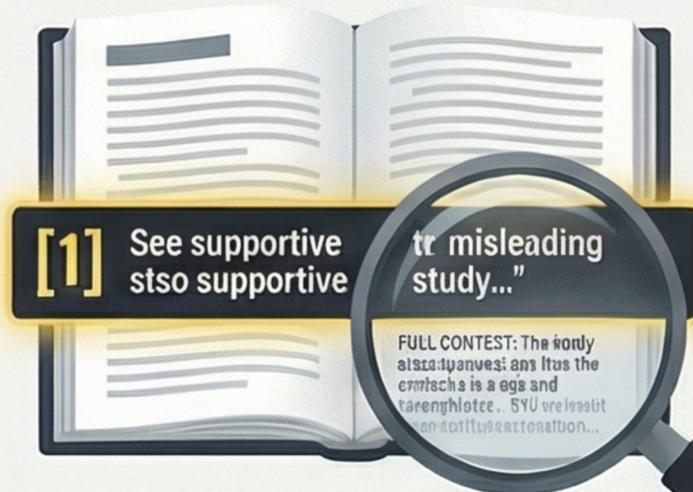


Highlighting one supposed "correct" detail to imply authenticity, while ignoring numerous clear historical errors (Texas Sharpshooter Fallacy).



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Using Deceptive Footnotes and Sources

Citing sources that, when read in full context, actually contradict or undermine the church's argument.