

Name: _____

Pd: _____

Date: _____

The Crucible by Arthur Miller
Essay (3 pages minimum)

Due Dates
(LATENESS PENALIZED!)

Thesis statement first draft due: _____

Peer edit day (rough draft due): _____

FINAL DRAFT DUE: _____

Essay Topics:

1. **Perform a character study of a character within *The Crucible*.** How does the character change over the course of the play? What causes this change?
 - Suggested characters: John Proctor, Reverend Hale.
2. **What made the people of Salem so willing to believe (or play along with) the witch hunt hysteria?**
 - What motivated characters to participate in the accusations and trials? (Especially Reverend Hale, the Putnams, the girls, Tituba, etc.)
 - What about life in Salem encouraged this hysteria? (eg. religion, authority, fear, jealousy, etc.)
3. **What motivated Abigail Williams to begin her accusations?**
 - Think about her position in society. How did her work with the court change that position?
4. **What statement does *The Crucible* make about authority and fear?** Consider the following:
 - How does Miller portray authority figures in the play?
 - Why are authority figures so hesitant to question the validity of the accusations?
 - What kind of characters are targeted in the witch hunt? Why are they most susceptible to this victimization?

THESIS STATEMENT = CLAIM + REASONING

- **CLAIM** is an **arguable** or **debatable** statement (someone could disagree with it).
- **REASONING** sums up **HOW** you will prove your statement (refer to the evidence you intend to use)

Some tips for your thesis statement:

- Your thesis must contain a **CLAIM** that is an **arguable** or **debatable** statement (someone could disagree with it, but you intend to prove it).
- Your thesis should include your **reasoning** that will prove your statement (this should refer to the evidence you intend to use)

Sample thesis starters:

1. In *The Crucible*, Proctor changes over the course of the novel by...
2. In *The Crucible*, Abby Williams is motivated by...
3. The Puritan community of Salem was susceptible to the witch hunt hysteria because...

REMINDER: This will be a major grade for the 2nd marking period. I am available for writing help at homework club, Mondays @ 3pm in room 209.

My CLAIM (answers the prompt):

NEXT, gather your **evidence**. Find AT LEAST 4 quotes from your story that support your claim:

QUOTE 1	QUOTE 2
This proves my CLAIM because...	This proves my CLAIM because...
QUOTE 3	QUOTE 4
This proves my CLAIM because...	This proves my CLAIM because...

WORKING THESIS

Combine your **CLAIM** with a brief summary of your **EVIDENCE** to get your working thesis:
