

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. **Is John Proctor a hero?** (evaluate his decision at the end of the play)
3. **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.)
4. **What motivated Abigail Williams to begin her accusations?**
  - Think about her position in society. How did her work with the court change that position?
5. **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, Tuesdays @ 3pm in room 129.**

My CLAIM (answers the prompt):

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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:

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