

The Crucible Persuasive Essay Writing Prompt

American Literature

Mrs. Hamilton

Writing Situation:

The Crucible is an allegory for McCarthyism. Arthur Miller wrote the play to criticize the brutal interrogations of suspected Communists that took place by Senator Joseph McCarthy in 1950. Instead of writing a play literally about the McCarthy hearings, however, Miller retells them in the disguise of a story about the Salem Witch trials. Miller, like many other liberal Hollywood insiders during this time, strongly opposed McCarthy.

Directions for Writing:

Write a persuasive argumentative essay in which you either agree or disagree with Senator McCarthy's actions and how Miller utilized those actions in **Acts I and II** of *The Crucible*. Use specific evidence from the text and explanations of that evidence to support your argument.

Writing Tips:

Your essay must provide five to eight citations. Naturally, these citations should be followed by extensive analysis of your own ("lead-outs" or inferences).

Embed quotes. Example: Hale views theology and religious beliefs as "a fortress" (67). This image distinguishes Hale as a diligent minister who has an eye for details and would never discount even the slightest grievance against the Faith.

You can also paraphrase. Example: Elizabeth Proctor denies the truth that her husband committed sexual misconduct with Abigail (113). Proctor believes this is the first lie he has heard his wife tell; we learn the true extent of Danforth's corrupt justice, when it forces two seemingly idealistic individuals to dually condemn themselves for the other (Proctor for his lechery, and Elizabeth for her falsehood).

Finalizing Your Essay:

- **READ NOTES LEFT ON YOUR LAST ESSAY BEFORE BEGINNING WORK ON THIS ESSAY!!!!!!!!!!**
- **Typed in MLA Format** (see https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html for more detailed information)
- **A Works Cited Page** (see the handout on the website or go to the above website for proper citation format)
- **Use Proper In-text citations** (see link above)
- **NO GRAVE YARD/ZOMBIE WORDS** (refer to the list of approved verbs given in class and the list of non-approved words that are on the wall in the class)
- **3RD Person only---BE DETAILED**
- **Indent all Paragraphs**
- **DO NOT SUMMARIZE---ANALYZE AND BREAK DOWN**
- **Include a well-constructed Thesis** (see your class notes for help)
- **PROOFREAD YOUR ESSAYS BEFORE SUBMITTING A FINAL DRAFT!!!!**
- **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, ASK/E-MAIL-----BUT DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE OR THE DAY IT IS DUE**

**DUE Tuesday, October 9, 2018 TURNITIN.COM 11:59 P.M.
Late work and excuses will not be accepted!**