

The Crucible Group Project—Rewrite of Acts I and II

Rubric

Names _____

Group # _____

Criteria for the Playbill	Score
How well has the group created a playbill cover that is creative, eye-catching, and representative of the play? Does the cover truly capture the central message or theme of your production?	_____/ 10
How well does the group match up <u>each</u> character from Miller's <i>The Crucible</i> with a character from their new play concept? Do the choices make sense in accordance with who the characters are from Miller's <i>Crucible</i> ?	_____/ 5
How well does the group assign <u>each</u> group member to a role in the production? (director, producer, etc.)	_____/ 5
Does the group have a concise, correct, and informative summary of each act of <i>The Crucible</i> ? Does the group organize each act on the page in a neat fashion, act by act? Does this summary display the group's creative approach to the new concept and the group's critical thinking skills, in terms of how the group conceived of or imagined the project?	_____/ 20
In general, is the playbill an attractive and neatly designed product that displays your hard effort and thorough knowledge of the play?	_____/ 10

Part 1: Playbill Points = _____ / 50 Possible Points

Comments:

Criteria for Performance (film or live performance)	Score
Costumes/Props/Setting: Do students use costumes and props that accurately fit the chosen modern concept and enhance the presentation? Are the costumes, setting, and/or props creative, distinctive, and thoughtful? Do the costumes reflect the characters' personalities?	_____/ 10
Content: Does the group utilize a change in language and setting from their modern concept to enhance the meaning of Miller's <i>Crucible</i> ? Does there seem to be a clear artistic and analytical purpose to the performance? Does the actual content of the performance show a clear thematic connection between Miller's <i>Crucible</i> and the group's chosen modern concept?	_____/ 40
Organization/Structure: Is the group prepared for the presentation? Is there unity and coherence in the performance? Is there an inherent logic in the layout of the performance? Do the actors know the script and the stage directions?	_____/ 15
Outside the Box Thinking: Is the performance creative, original, surprising? If humor is intended, is it funny? Does the video get a strong, positive reaction from the class that spurs further thinking or discussion about your modern concept?	_____/ 15
Use of Technology: Editing/Effects: Is there a good use of technology that could include skillful transitions, music, video clips, and an obvious ease with filmmaking? Is the lighting strong enough so that the audience can see what is occurring? Is the volume loud enough for everyone to hear? Are there massive technological issues that make it difficult for the class to see or fully understand the performance?	_____/ 10
Contribution of Group Members: Is each person in the group contributing with spunk and flare to the performance? Does the performance reveal itself to be a collaboration between all members?	_____/ 10

Part 2: Performance Points = _____ / 100 points

Comments:

Criteria for Rewritten Script	Score
How well has the writer remained faithful to the basic themes, storylines, and conflicts of Miller's <i>The Crucible</i> ? Are the characters' basic personalities and problems recognizable to the reader?	_____/ 10
How well has the writer changed the language to reflect the new production concept for the play? How well has the writer changed the setting to reflect the new production concept for the play?	_____/ 10
How well has the writer followed the conventions for how a play should look on the written page? Does the play look correctly and consistently set up? For example, are stage directions italicized?	_____/ 5
How well has the writer fulfilled basic requirements for this assignment? (length, scene choice)	_____/ 5
How well has the writer created an entertaining, thoughtful, and creative modern approach to the <i>Crucible</i> ? How has the writer gone above and beyond my expectations and created a truly insightful and unique project that displays critical thinking and an obviously deep understanding of Miller's <i>Crucible</i> and his/her own modern concept?	_____/ 10
Is the new production concept clear to the reader and not confusing or convoluted?	_____/ 5
How well has the writer avoided major editing errors, like comma splices, fused sentences, fragments, apostrophe errors, commas between independent clauses?	_____/ 5

Part 3: Rewritten Script Points ____ / 50 Points

Comments:

***The Crucible* Group Project**

THE MAKING OF A MOVIE

This project is meant to enhance the material learned in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Your group will produce a stage production of only **Act I and Act II** of this play, and you will need to redefine Miller's language. You will rewrite **Act I and Act II** using another theme for the production. Examples of plays that have been rewritten are *10 Things I Hate About You* (a modern remaking of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*), *O* (Shakespeare's *Othello*), and *Clueless* (Jane Austen's *Emma*). The directors who chose to create these films remained true to the themes and storylines behind Shakespeare's plays and Austen's novel, meanwhile changing the language and setting to make the plays more accessible to modern viewers. Your job is to accomplish what these directors accomplished; you will remake *The Crucible* so that it is accessible to your peers by modernizing the setting and characters. For example, you could produce *Mean Girls Crucible*, *Grease Crucible*, *Sopranos Crucible*, *Survivor Crucible*, *Hip Hop Crucible*, etc.

Be very, very wise about what new theme you choose. Utilize a careful balance between critical thinking and creativity:

- For example, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller has complex characters that sacrifice their lives for their morality or for what they believe is right, and these characters battle other characters who are willing to sacrifice their morals for power; who will fill these roles in your chosen theme?
- There is also a love triangle of sorts, or rather two characters vying for another character's attention/love in Miller's *The Crucible*. In your theme, who will fill these roles? (It doesn't have to be a "love" triangle, but keep in mind that you must make some sort of correlation).
- Keep in mind the whole witchcraft issue that causes so much paranoia and fear in Miller's *The Crucible* – Miller takes the witch hunt of the Puritan time period and compares it to the witch hunt for supposed Communists during the Red Scare of the McCarthyism era. What witch hunt will you use in your new theme?

***Remember that whatever new theme you have should be able to match up with *The Crucible*, and you cannot completely change the fundamental elements of your chosen theme. ***

The project is comprised of several components:

Project Proposal: The project proposal is a brief introduction to your chosen theme or concept and how it relates to Miller's *The Crucible*. This proposal should show that your group is on the right track in terms of selecting an appropriate and sensible theme. Remember, the key is to update the language and the setting. **The project proposal should be typed, in 12 point Times New Roman font and should include the following: (1) a character list that matches up key characters from Miller's *The Crucible* with your new theme's characters (2) At least a 1 page explanation of why you have chosen this new theme and what its connection is to Miller's *The Crucible*.** In other words, justify your choice and explain how it will play out in your project. Also, provide a few sentences that discuss how you will change the language and the setting. This proposal should be a working blueprint for the central thinking that will guide your project.

I. Playbill – this is what you receive when attending a theater to see a production. The playbill needs to focus on the new production concept. Your group needs to include the following:

1. Section 1: The playbill must have a **cover** that gives the audience some insight into what the revised play is about. The design may be an image or words written that try to capture the essence of the play and its message and/or major themes. This image could be a collage, an important scene in the play, or an important character. This section should also include the title of the play (as your new *The Crucible* concept/theme).
2. Section 2a: **a list of the characters** (the entire play) – you need to place contemporary actors/actresses in each of these roles. You need to choose the actor that would match the character as he/she appears in your adaptation.
3. Section 2b: **A production crew**- these can be your group members! You need a lighting designer, costume designer, set designer, producer, director, makeup artist, casting, and publicity.
4. Section 4: Provide a **brief summary of each act**. There are two acts you are to focus on in Miller's play, so there should be two sections on this page; however, you are not summarizing Miller's play – you are imagining what your new concept/theme would be if it took place over the play, act by act. Be sure to include an overall picture of each act and the main setting of each act.

II. Performance – Your group will choose to do one of two types of performances: either a live performance in front of the class OR a movie that you show the class of your taped performance. Your performance must include the following:

1. your group must have on costumes that match or reflect the group's chosen modern concept, and the costumes should also reflect the character's personality
2. should be an 10-15 minute presentation of your act(s) (you do not have to do the entire act; you can select what you feel to be the most significant part(s) to present
3. the performance should of course reflect your modern concept in the language and setting.

III. Rewritten Script – Your group will be responsible for including the scene, acts, etc. that illustrate your new concept or theme. Each group will turn in one script per group, and it is up to the group to decide how to divide up the work for the script. You do not have to follow the scene line for line, but rather capture the plot and theme of the acts written in your new style.

****Disclaimer****

In order to complete this project in an efficient manner that utilizes each group member, you will need to figure out your group members' individual strengths and assign certain parts of the project to the suitable group member. Time management is one of the most difficult parts of this project, and so as a group, you want to be on the same page with each other so that you have strong commitment and a desire to produce an excellent project. **Your inability to work together as a group will NOT be an excuse for a poor grade. You must work out any difficulties and accept your grade as a group. Feel free to discuss those difficulties with me as I may be able to help your group brainstorm for a solution.**

Crucible Project Components:

1) Project Proposal – Due on **October 1, 2019 by 9:00 pm via google classroom**

2) Playbill – Due on **October 2, 2019 by the end of class via google classroom**

3) Rewritten Script – Due on **October 7, 2019 at the beginning of class via google classroom**

4) Performance (video) – Due on **October 7, 2019 at the beginning of class**

Group Members	Phone Numbers	E-mail Addresses