

Discuss the struggle Rev. Hale goes through over the course of the play and any changes that take place as a result of this struggle.

Sample Introductory Paragraph

People come to a point in their lives where they have to face the truth, but does it normally contradict their entire life beliefs? In *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, Reverend Hale faces such a truth. Hale is an honest priest who believes utterly in the word of God. When he is called to Salem to see if there are really witches in town, he is completely convinced of the possibility that, "the Devil is alive in Salem" (Miller 858). He eventually loses his power to a certain Judge Danforth, and realizes that the accusing children are lying. The central conflict of Rev. Hale is his struggle between his religion or his logic, in the manner that he previously believed there to be witches in Salem, but later came to realization that there were not.

Sample Body Paragraph

Hale's struggle begins when he first comes into Salem, and is convinced that there are witches in the town. He brings books with him and says, "In these books the Devil stands stripped of his brute disguises" (858). This is significant because it means he has what he believes to be hard evidence on the Devil's and witches' existence. No matter what the truth is, he is going to believe the Bible and whatever it says about witches' existence. Hale says that if the Devil is in Salem, he means to "crush him utterly" ((845). Although the "if" shows that he is considering all possibilities, he still genuinely believes in witches. All means necessary will be used to stop these witches from doing their supposed evils. His position in the matters at hand toward the beginning of the play is quite straightforward: he thinks there are witches in town.