

## The Crucible Essay

DO NOT GO ONLINE SEARCHING FOR QUOTES, EXAMPLES, OR ANY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT-YOU MAY PUT YOURSELF IN A VERY UNFORTUNATE POSITION IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO SO. ANY INSTANCE OF PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

### The Crucible: Literary Analysis Essay

- Directions: Choose ONE of the essay prompts/topics below. Answer your chosen prompt in a five-paragraph essay based around a clear and specific thesis.
- Each of your three body paragraphs must include a quote from the play.

#### Possible Essay Topics

1. Choose one of the main characters from *The Crucible*, and write a literary analysis essay explaining how that character developed over the course of the play.

You should consider the character's own statements and actions as well as what other characters and the narrator said about the person. Consider some or all of the following questions in your analysis: What personal qualities did the character possess? What motivated the character? What choices did the character make and why? What options did the character have, given the circumstances? Did the character "deserve" his or her fate? Why or why not? What "universal" qualities does the character exhibit, if any?

Options: Reverend John Hale, John Proctor, Abigail Williams, Elizabeth Proctor, Rebecca Nurse, Giles Corey, Reverend Samuel Parris.

2. Discuss the thematic significance of the title: look up the definitions of the word and consider why Miller would choose this as a title.

3. What motivates John Proctor to lie about his affair with Abigail Williams? Is a good name more important than the truth? Explain your answer using at least three examples from the text to support your opinion. One piece of your evidence must be John Proctor's speech in Act IV, when he says, "[With a cry of his whole soul.] Because it is my name! Because I cannot have another in my life! Because I lie and sign myself to lies! Because I am not worth the dust on the feet of them that hang! How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave me my name!" What is John Proctor trying to explain with this outburst, and how does it relate to your argument?

1. Select a topic (circle or star your choice above), and jot down the first few ideas that pop into your head when you think about how you would go about answering your selected question. If you can't decide on a topic, brainstorm ideas for two topics you're thinking about. Based on how many ideas you're able to come up with for each topic, choose one.
2. Brainstorm a clear, coherent answer to the question (this will be the basis of your thesis). You can use any form of brainstorming—a web, a chart, a list, etc.

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3. Now, brainstorm what you could possibly focus on in your three body paragraphs to prove your thesis. In other words, what THREE reasons/ideas will you use to support/justify your thesis?

1.

2.

3.

**Formulate your thesis.**

- Your thesis should make a clear statement of the argument you are making in response to the topic question.
- Since you will be writing a one part thesis, you do NOT need to include your three supporting reasons or ideas in your thesis.
- Your thesis must contain the title and the author of the work to be discussed.
- Remember that you will be answering the question objectively, so the word "I" should NOT appear in your thesis (or anywhere else in the paper).

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Create a logical order of ideas for your paper.** One idea (in terms of your thesis) will guide each body paragraph. Under each main idea, brainstorm potential quotes you will pull from *The Crucible* to support your argument in that body paragraph. **YOU WILL HAVE TO USE AT LEAST ONE DIRECT QUOTE FOR EACH PARAGRAPH.**

Body Paragraph 1 (your weakest argument): \_\_\_\_\_  
• Possible quotes:

Body Paragraph 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
• Possible quotes:

Body Paragraph 3 (your strongest argument): \_\_\_\_\_  
• Possible quotes: