

LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY: *The Crucible*

DIRECTIONS

Choose 1 (**ONE**) of the following topics and write a complete, organized essay (introduction, body, conclusion) using correct MLA format. Use complete sentences and balance your evidence with analytical commentary (it will help many of you to use the CD/CM/CM format to ensure this). Provide **SPECIFIC DETAILS** from the text!

ESSAY CHOICES

- A. From the play *The Crucible*, select an important character that is a *villain*. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the nature of the character's villainy and show how it enhances meaning in the work. Be sure to include specific textual evidence.
- B. The word crucible means a severe test. Write an essay in which you discuss the various ways in which characters are tested in the course of the play. Cite specific passages from the text to support your discussion.
- C. Analyze how one or more characters in *The Crucible* deals with adversity. Give specific reasons for your choice and use concrete evidence from the play to support your assertion.
- D. Select either HYSTERIA or CRUCIBLE and explain through specific references to the play how important these terms are to the understanding of Miller's play. You will need to have a dictionary definition as part of your answer...yes you can go and get a dictionary.
- E. There are many themes that Miller attempts to explore in *The Crucible*. Select **one** (1) of them and discuss what his insight into human nature and life is as it relates to the way he presents the theme in *The Crucible*. (Hatred, jealousy/envy, lust for power, hypocrisy, evil, prejudice/narrow-mindedness, greed are some examples of **topics** you could **develop a theme** from.)
- G. Discuss how the girls were like wolves in sheep's clothing and how the citizens of Salem were blind little lambs, willing to be taken to slaughter. Again be sure to use text evidence to support your point of view.

REQUIREMENTS

- Analytical claim (thesis)
- 3 direct quotations and 3 indirect quotations, cited in MLA format
- Approximately 450 words (give or take 10% – 405-495 words); MLA format (see packet)
- When you turn in your essay, you **MUST** include the following¹:
 1. Final Draft on the top
 2. Rough draft
 3. Prewriting
 4. Rubric on the bottom

POINTS: 70

DUE: November _____, 2009

¹ Papers without these elements will be returned. They may be resubmitted, but will be counted as late.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR--WRITING SCORING GUIDE
EXPOSITORY ESSAY

5 = Accomplished 100%	4 = Maturing 85%	3 = Developing 70%	2 = Emerging 55%	1 = Attempted 40%
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Ideas & Content (Development) 5 4 3 2 1 x 5 = ____

- ⇒ Clear, focused thesis
- ⇒ Argument is cohesive and focused with substantive analysis; not weak, cursory, and obvious
- ⇒ Concrete details are relevant, accurate, and support the topic sentence
- ⇒ Commentary insightfully and logically explains concrete details' relevance to the thesis
- ⇒ Argument is well-developed via a proper balance of commentary and concrete detail
- ⇒ Includes quotes and parenthetical citations from a variety of sources (if applicable)
- ⇒ Text notes and citations properly used (if applicable)

Organization (Internal Structure) 5 4 3 2 1 x 5 = ____

- ⇒ Organization logically supports the argument of the paper
- ⇒ Entire piece has a strong sense of direction and balance; strong unity
- ⇒ Inviting introduction draws reader in
- ⇒ Satisfying conclusion leaves reader with sense of closure
- ⇒ Sequencing of commentary and concrete details is logical and effective
- ⇒ Transitions are strong but natural

Voice (Person Behind the Words) 5 4 3 2 1 x 1 = ____

- ⇒ Tone and flavor fit the topic, purpose, and audience well
- ⇒ Uses third person point of view exclusively, but does not sound dry/monotone (no I, you, or me).
- ⇒ Voice adds to, or at least does not detract from, the argument

Word Choice (Language That Brings it to Life) 5 4 3 2 1 x 1 = ____

- ⇒ Words are specific; avoids vague words like "very"
- ⇒ Variety of interesting words
- ⇒ Minimal slang, jargon, clichés
- ⇒ Lively verbs energize the writing
- ⇒ Avoids words which are empty (be verbs and dead words)
- ⇒ Specific nouns and colorful adjectives

Sentence Fluency (Rhythm & Flow) 5 4 3 2 1 x 2 = ____

- ⇒ Each sentence can stand alone as a clear unit of communication
- ⇒ (Fragments are rarely used, then only to add style.)
- ⇒ Purposeful sentence beginnings show how each sentence relates to and builds on one before
- ⇒ Easy to read aloud
- ⇒ Strong, varied structure invites expressive oral reading

Format 5 4 3 2 1 x 1 = ____

- ⇒ Heading, double-spaced, page numbers, typed or neatly written with blue/black pen in MLA format

Conventions (Mechanical Correctness) 5 4 3 2 1 x 1 = ____

Scoring specifics: 5 = 0-2 errors, 4 = 3-4 errors, 3 = 5-6 errors, 2 = 7-8 errors, 1 = 9+ errors

- ⇒ Grammar/usage is correct and contributes to clarity and style
- ⇒ Spelling is generally correct-even on more difficult words
- ⇒ Capitalization if correct and applied consistently
- ⇒ Punctuation is accurate-smoothly guides reader through text
- ⇒ Editing and proofreading is evident-close to being ready to publish
- ⇒ Paragraphing reinforces the organizational structure
- ⇒ Writing has sufficient length and complexity to allow the writer to show skill in using a wide variety of conventions.

Total: 80 / _____