

The Crucible Essay Assignment

You will prepare an outline and then write a **five**-paragraph essay that explores a theme in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*.

Prompt:

Many contrasting ideas can be found in *The Crucible*, and these ideas lead the reader to some of the themes of the play. Using the ideas below as a basis, generate a theme and discuss it. Use evidence from the text to show how the theme is developed throughout the play.

- a. Ignorance vs. Wisdom**
- b. Individual Freedom vs. Social Order**
- c. Justice vs. Vengeance**
- d. Human Cruelty in the name of righteousness / religion**

Your essay must follow the following outline:

- I. Introduction with hook and thesis
- II. Argument 1 with at least two quotes
- III. Argument 2 with at least two quotes
- IV. Argument 3 with at least two quotes
- V. Conclusion with clincher

You must include a minimum of six quotations from the play (at least two per body paragraph). Quotations must be properly integrated into the essay. Each quote must have an introduction, explanation, and in-text citation.

Essay Format:

- Name, Date, Period, Assignment on the top left
- Original title is centered and bold
- Times New Roman font, 12pt
- Double spaced
- 1" margins
- Name of file: Pd_Last_First_crucible
- PDF or Word only

Assignment Deadlines

- Thesis: Thursday December 6
- Hook: Friday, December 7
- Outline: Monday, December 12
- Rough Draft: Wednesday, December
- Outline: Monday, December 12

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Possible Thesis Statements for Topic 2: (Theme)

In *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller argues that when ignorance and fear are allowed to overcome reason, wisdom and common sense cannot prevail. In the play, the wisdom and reason of Rebecca Nurse, John Proctor, and Reverend Hale cannot overcome the mob mentality that overtakes Salem.

In *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller argues that the social order cannot be maintained without individual accountability and integrity. In the play, Abigail Williams, Mary Warren, and Judge Danforth lack integrity and destroy Salem.

In *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller argues that an individual or society's need for vengeance makes justice impossible. In the play, Reverend Parris, the Putnams, and Abigail Williams' need for vengeance prevents justice from being served.

In *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller argues that human cruelty is never acceptable, even under the pretext of righteousness or religion. In the play, Putnam's false accusations, Abigail's desire for vengeance, and the court's refusal to listen to reason support Miller's argument that human cruelty in the name of righteousness is never justified.