Persuasive Essay Prompts

*The Crucible*

For your essay on *The Crucible,* you will write a 3-4 page persuasive essay on one of the essay prompts listed below.

Please follow the outline provided detailing the format of a persuasive essay. You cannot succeed on this essay unless you follow the format. As a reminder: use MLA format, proper heading, double spacing, Times New Roman, literary present tense, 3rd person, etc. Don’t forget to include a Works Cited.

*Honors: You must include at least one outside source.*

**Essay Prompts**

1. Which character in *The Crucible* (primarily in Acts I and II) is most responsible for witchcraft hysteria? Consider the actions of John Proctor, Abigail Williams, Reverend Parris, Thomas Putnam, and Reverend Hale. What are the contributing factors to witchcraft hysteria and who should be held responsible for the imprisonment and execution of innocent Puritans?

2. In Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible,* Reverend Hale tells Elizabeth Proctor that “no principle, however glorious” is worth dying for, and he argues that it is better to give a false confession than to die for a principle of belief. Defend or refute Hale’s assertion using evidence from *The Crucible* to support your stance.

3. Choose one character from *The Crucible* (you cannot use John Proctor). Then, argue whether their actions throughout the drama are selfish or sacrificial. Are they heroic or villainous? Explain.

**Due Dates**

You will have class time this week to work on the essay. However, you will have to work on the essay at home, as well.

**Due Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 – please submit in google folder**

**Grading**

Your essays will be graded according to the expectations as listed above. You must meet the minimum requirements in order to succeed on this essay. A further explanation of grading can be found below.

A range essays will exhibit expertise in terms of structure, organization, sentence structure, verb tense, analysis, voice, and style. A range essays have effectively addressed the primary elements of the reading (as listed above) and have also incorporated further analysis as it pertains to some of the minor elements of the piece. All claims are backed up by relevant examples from the text. Quotations are of an appropriate length (not too long/ short) for the analysis presented, and are introduced and explained in an effective and stylistic compelling manner.

B range essays have the primary properties as above but may be lacking in one or two of the areas mentioned. The voice of the author may be less defined, the analysis, while perhaps effective, might need further development, the structure, while adequate, could be developed in a more advanced manner. Minor elements might be overlooked, and quotations might have been presented in a more effective way.

C range essays will have the primary properties as above but may have inaccurately interpreted particular pieces of information, failed to include one of the major elements of the piece, have some structural/ organizational errors, contain quotations of inappropriate length, and/ or provide points of analysis that do not align with the section being analyzed.