***The Crucible* Essay Assignment**

**Mrs. Barefoot**

2017

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Objective:** To write an analysis of the characters in Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible.*

**Requirements:**

1. You essay is to be **5 paragraphs**: intro, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion
2. Your **intro** must include: an attention grabber, a brief summary of the play & character, and a THESIS STATEMENT (claim).
3. **Body paragraphs** must include: a topic sentence, 1 quotation from the play (including page number) as support, a commentary for each quotation, and transitional words and phrases.
4. Your **conclusion** must include: a *restatement* (must be a re-wording) of your thesis (claim) and a reflective summary of your findings.
5. Your essay must:
   1. Include a proper heading, creative title, and make use of MLA 8 format
   2. Be free of typos, grammatical errors, and spelling errors
   3. Be printed and turned in by **Friday, October 20th**.

**Essay Options (choose one)**

1. Choose *one* character: examine which commandments they have broken and explain how their actions are evidence of their *hypocrisy*. Examine the difference between who this character claims to be and who they truly are.
2. John Proctor is the tragic hero of *The Crucible.* Examine how closely Arthur Miller’s character fits into the classic, tragic process. What are John Proctor’s tragic flaws? How do those flaws lead to his great mistakes? Does John Proctor experience a catharsis before he is hanged?
3. Reverend John Hale is possibly the most changed character over the course of *The Crucible*. Explain how Rev. Hale changes from the devout minister of Act 1to the doubting minister of Act 3 to the guilt-ridden minister of Act 4.
4. Discuss the tragic process of the female protagonist, Elizabeth Proctor. Could the tragic process also apply to Elizabeth? What is her flaw, her great mistake, and catharsis? Does she find peace at the end of *The Crucible?*
5. Abigail Williams is the main antagonist in Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible.* Her character changes a great deal throughout the play. In the beginning, she is a child with an ill reputation in Salem. Through her accusations, her character’s status and reputation changes. Discuss how and why this change occurs and explain her position at the end of *the Crucible.* Does our play’s “villain” get what she deserves?
6. Arthur Miller’s The Crucible is allegorical—on the surface, it is about Salem but his true intention was to drawn comparisons between Salem and 1950’s McCarthyism. In what ways does the play’s circumstances and characters represent the McCarthy era? What parallels can you find between the two most infamous witch hunts in American history?