

The Crucible: Literary Analysis Research Paper
Mrs. Bowles
American Literature 11th Grade

Choose **ONE** of the following prompts:

- Choose three characters in *The Crucible* who tell significant **lies**. Why do they do this? What does each hope to achieve (or avert) by lying? Does the play suggest that there are times when we should lie?
- Consider the value of **reputation** in *The Crucible*; discuss how it motivates the actions of three major characters. What does the play suggest is the importance of one's "good name"?
- Discuss *The Crucible* as a **Modern TRAGEDY** (including John Proctor as a **TRAGIC HERO**)—what is the value of reading the play in the twenty-first century?
- Discuss some aspect of **morality**. . . (Narrow your focus).
- Discuss the **portrayal of female characters** within the play. Compare and contrast them.

Assessment Guidelines/Checklist:

Content:

- Addresses all aspects of the prompt and assignment (**min: 6 paragraphs / 900 words**)
- **Argumentative thesis** clearly states the writer's position
- Each body paragraph contains **well-chosen textual evidence—3 QUOTES FROM THE PLAY per paragraph**

Organization:

- Effective Introduction
- TOPIC SENTENCES are persuasively worded and support thesis with a related point
- Concluding paragraph goes beyond restating thesis
- Smooth transitions between and within paragraphs

Word Choice & Sentence Fluency:

- Diction appropriate for academic writing; words are specific, appropriate, accurate, and concise
- Sentences varied in length and structure

Conventions:

- Mastery of agreement, verb tense consistency, and preposition use
- No comma errors, comma splices, or run-ons
- No 1st or 2nd person pronouns
- Correct tense is maintained throughout the paper.

Presentation:

- Correct MLA format

- Heading, Header w/ page #, Title, FONT, Parenthetical Documentation, Works Cited page - see examples on my website or use Purdue Owl.
 - All quotes are integrated or introduced (Who is speaking to whom? About what?)
- EX: In Act IV of *The Crucible*, John Proctor pleads with Hathorne, “ I have given you my soul; leave me my name,” revealing the degree to which he values his reputation (Miller 240).
- ** Use the Quotation Integration handout I provided to you earlier this semester. It is also on my website!

Literary Analysis Research Paper for *The Crucible* Step 1

You will gather evidence for your paper by utilizing the quotation chart below - use the same topic for every act. You **MUST** have **12 to 15** entries in this section. In the first column, you will write your topic. In the second column, write the quotation, including parenthetical documentation. In the third column, write who says the quote and to whom he/she says it. In the fourth column, briefly explain what happens right before and right after the quotation. In the fifth column, explain, in one to two sentences, how the quotation relates to your topic or thesis.

Example Response:

| Topic | Quotation (w/ pd) | Who says this? To whom is it said? | What is happening right before and right after this is said? | How does the quotation relate to my topic/thesis? Analyze the quotation and explain how it connects to your topic/thesis. |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Proctor as tragic hero | “I have three children—how may I teach them to walk like men in the world, and I sold my friends?” (Miller 239). | John Proctor; Danforth | Right before, Danforth is telling Proctor that his written confession must be made public; after, Danforth continues to tell him that he must have the proof. | At this point in the play, Proctor is offered a chance to save his life, but sin again, by handing over a document which will confirm that his friends are witches. He refuses to do it, which supports the point that he is a tragic hero. |

Literary Analysis Research Paper for *The Crucible* Step 2

Locating A Secondary Source for Research

Name _____ Date _____
Period _____

For your literary analysis, you must incorporate *TWO* secondary sources into your paper. (You may choose to use more, but that is your choice.) Remember, you must properly cite the articles in your paper (using parenthetical documentation) and also cite it on your Works Cited page. The notes that you take will be part of your grade, so this is **REQUIRED!**

Steps for locating a secondary source:

- 1) Search for a *relevant* article. Use choice words to narrow your searches. Please understand that this is typically the most time-consuming part, so expect to spend a decent amount of time evaluating sources (i.e. Does this article relate to my paper? Is it helpful? Will it enhance my thesis? etc).
- 2) Write down important information from the source. What are some of the quotes/paraphrased statements you want to use? What is the citation information? (Again, you will need this to both cite the article in your paper and on your Works Cited page.)

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Scholarly Databases: | |
| Galileo | Password for Galileo: |
| Galenet | Password for Galenet: |

Scholarly Secondary Source #1:

Web
address: _____

Citation Information:

Quotes from this article that relate to my thesis + parenthetical documentation:

How do these quotes relate to my thesis?

Scholarly Secondary Source #2:

Web
address: _____

Citation Information:

Quotes from this article that relate to my thesis + parenthetical documentation:

How do these quotes relate to my thesis?

Literary Analysis Research Paper for *The Crucible* Step 3

Formal Outline including parenthetical documentation (in-text citations). You may also do a documented sentence outline.

- I. Introduction - the thesis statement will ask the question, "So what?" or "Why does this matter?" or "What is the bigger picture/message?" Remember, the introductory paragraph will give the reader a sip of what is to come as the paper develops. This is where your paper starts -- the first impression needs to be assertive, interesting, and encourage the reader to continue on. Begin with background information, startling statistic/statement, or an anecdote (story).
- II. Topic sentence:
 - A. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - B. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - C. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - D. Concluding statement
- III. Topic sentence:
 - A. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - B. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - C. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - D. Concluding statement
- IV. Topic sentence
 - A. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - B. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - C. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - D. Concluding statement
- V. Topic sentence
 - A. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation

2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - B. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - C. Example/event
 1. Quote + parenthetical documentation
 2. Significance/prove your theme/thesis
 - D. Concluding statement
- VI. Conclusion - Your literary analysis essay should have a concluding paragraph that gives your essay a sense of completeness and lets your readers know that they have come to the end of your paper. Your concluding paragraph might restate the thesis in different words, summarize the main points you have made, or make a relevant comment about the literary work you are analyzing, but from a different perspective. Do not introduce a new topic in your conclusion.

Example of a body paragraph:

John Proctor lies throughout the play to mainly protect his reputation, but it ultimately leads to his downfall in Salem. Proctor feels that if a man's name is ruined, it is bringing "social death to himself" (Schlueter and Flanagan 155). Proctor and Abigail begin to argue in the woods. Proctor doesn't want Abigail to reveal their affair, so he begins to deny everything. John lies to both himself and to Abby when he claims they "never touched" (Miller 177). John tells this lie not only to protect his reputation, but to also convince himself that he never committed adultery. When Hale confronts Proctor about the Ten Commandments, Proctor claims that "[they] do them all" (Miller 199). Proctor says this to cover up the fact that he doesn't remember the commandment of adultery. Proctor lies to his wife about going to Salem so that she doesn't find out about Abigail. John is gone for days and tells Elizabeth that "he has no business in Salem" (Miller 192).

Literary Analysis Research Paper for *The Crucible* Step 4

Write the paper and complete the Works Cited page!

Checklist 300 points!

Thesis (5)

Due: _____

Literary Analysis Chart 15 entries (50) Due:

Scholarly Source (45) Due:

Outline/documented sentence (50)

Due: _____

Rough draft (50)

Due: _____

Final draft (100) Due:

Works Cited (required - a grade of zero will be assigned without this page) _____

This grade counts for 20% of your semester average!