*The Crucible* Essay Prompt

Arthur Miller intended for *The Crucible* to be allegorical to the McCarthy Era because he believed Americans were making the same mistakes in the McCarthy Era that they had during the Salem Witch Trials.

Some of the allegorical topics he explores in the anxious setting of the Salem Witch Trials are:

* Accusations without proof
* Groupthink/mob psychology
* Self-preservation
* Minority groups as scapegoats
* Oversimplification of a problem

He explores social issues that present themselves as themes in the play as well:

* Forgiveness
* Justice
* Conscience
* Betrayal
* Fear
* Judgement

**SAT STYLE PROMPT:**

Write an essay in which you explain how Arthur Miller builds an argument in the passage to persuade his audience that humanity (i.e. Americans) cannot exist morally without its necessary counterpart—sin...and choose one of the allegorical concepts OR one of the social issues explored in The Crucible to include in your analysis as textual evidence and support

In your essay, analyze how Miller uses one or more of the features in the directions that precede the passage (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of his argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the most relevant features of the passage.

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Outline Your Essay

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| **INTRODUCTION:**  **\***Start off very general (real world) and move towards the specific (into the topic) as you get closer to your thesis statement (the most specific and focused part of the introduction).  **Thesis Statement:** The statement that tells what your essay will be arguing. Claim (answer the question) + Reasoning |
| **BODY PARAGRAPH #1:**  A body paragraph is a paragraph that proves/supports the thesis statement; Must have unity and coherence. Rule of thumb: A topic sentence, An introduction to supporting evidence, Cited Evidence, An analysis/explanation of your support, Closing Sentence. |
| **BODY PARAGRAPH #2:** |
| **BODY PARAGRAPH #3:** |
| **CONCLUSION:** Restate your thesis statement (in different words), summarize your major ideas, establish purpose, and transition readers back into the real world with final, interesting thoughts. \*SHOULD NOT introduce any new ideas. |