***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

Your task: Choose one of the allegorical concepts in *The Crucible* and argue how Miller believed Americans are likely to behave in anxious settings OR choose one of the social issues and argue what Miller is trying to communicate to the public about this social issue.

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**Review: Writing a thematic thesis statement**

**Notes on Thesis (from PPT)**

**Examples of thematic thesis statements:**

* Orwell argues that the key to controlling a person’s mind is through the manipulation of language, shown by…
* O’Brien conveys the idea that courage is about doing what is right for the individual rather than doing what society deems is right for the whole. This is shown through…

**Practice!**

**Evaluate**: assess the following examples of thesis statements based on the sample prompt below. Indicate whether they are strong or weak, using the info above to help you assess. Explain why it’s weak or strong, describing the strength or weakness.

* **Prompt**: **Explore how Arthur Miller uses a character in *The Crucible* to illuminate a larger theme in the play.**

1. Abigail Williams betrays Mary Warren in *The Crucible*. Weak or Strong? Why?

2. John Proctor shows judgment of reputation in *The Crucible.* Weak or Strong? Why?

3. The character of John Proctor shows that sticking to one’s values is more noble than succumbing to the pressure of the group, shown by his confession of adultery and his hanging. Weak or strong? Why?

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**Let’s Begin Crafting a Thematic Thesis Statement**

**Directions**: Try creating *two different* thematic thesis statements using the prompt for your essay.

-Follow the steps to creating a strong thesis statement

-Be sure to answer the question!

Thematic Thesis Statement Draft #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Thematic Thesis Statement Draft #2

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