

The Crucible Pre-Reading Research

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, in the context of the historical Salem Witch Trials, shows many innocent people being accused of crimes/sins they did not commit. Throughout history, society has been blinded to similar occurrences, or "witch hunts." Indeed, Miller wrote *The Crucible* in response to one of those "witch hunts" that took place in his time--McCarthyism.

What can we do to keep the innocent from being accused and presumed guilty?

Your job, in self-selected groups of three or four students, is to research the background of the Salem Witch Trials, McCarthyism, and other "witch hunts" throughout history to 1) find their causes, 2) evaluate their consequences, and 3) develop a solution that would help avoid or prevent such "witch hunts" in the future.

Group Roles:

🌟 *Expert on the Salem Witch Trials*

- For this role, you must gather **extensive background information** related to the Salem Witch Trials, identifying
 - their causes—with a focus on the beliefs of the people of the time
 - their consequences—for the individuals accused, for their accusers, and for society as a whole
 - possible ways we could have avoided the persecutions. Solutions must be applicable for the people of that time period and in that situation.
- You must gather your information from at least **four (4)** sources:
 - two** books, but only one encyclopedia
 - one** periodical
 - one** website

🌟 *Expert on McCarthyism*

- For this role, you must gather **extensive background information** related to McCarthyism, identifying
 - its causes—with a focus on the beliefs of the people of the time
 - its consequences—for the individuals accused, for their accusers, and for society as a whole
 - possible ways we could have avoided the persecutions. Solutions must be applicable for the people of that time period and in that situation.
- You must gather your information from at least **four (4)** sources:
 - two** books, but only one encyclopedia
 - one** periodical
 - one** website

🌟 *Expert on one related persecution of innocent people*

- For this role, you must gather information on **one** related persecution, identifying
 - its causes—with a focus on the beliefs of the people of the time
 - its consequences—for the individuals accused, for their accusers, and for society as a whole
 - possible ways we could have avoided the persecutions. Solutions must be applicable for the people of that time period and in that situation.
- You must gather your information from at least **four (4)** sources:
 - two** books, but only one encyclopedia
 - one** periodical
 - one** website

🏠 *Expert on one OTHER related persecution of innocent people*

- For this role, you must gather information on **one** related persecution, identifying
 - its causes—with a focus on the beliefs of the people of the time
 - its consequences—for the individuals accused, for their accusers, and for society as a whole
 - possible ways we could have avoided the persecutions. Solutions must be applicable for the people of that time period and in that situation.
- You must gather your information from at least **four (4)** sources:
 - two** books, but only one encyclopedia
 - one** periodical
 - one** website

Each member of the group must be or become an expert on WRITING.

The group will compile the information gathered by group members, write a five- or six-paragraph essay, and present that information to the class using some kind of visual aid. Include all the following in your presentation:

- Create a visually pleasing presentation that is organized and thoughtful.
- Be as creative as you wish.
- Write a Works Cited page accounting for all of the research of your group. This page should have at least **twelve (12)** citations.
- Create at least five paragraphs in your essay
 - cover page stating group members' names, a title for your project, the class and period, the teacher's name, and the date
 - an introductory and a concluding paragraph
 - at least one informative paragraph for each of the three or four issues your group researches, including the problems behind each situation; what are the issues?
 - causes of each witch-hunt
 - consequences of each witch-hunt
 - possible ways to avoid the witch-hunt
 - Each body paragraph must contain claim, evidence, and commentary.

Additional Information:

- 🏠 Each person will need his/her own floppy disk on which to save research and/or product.
- 🏠 Presentations are scheduled for Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2006. No presentation will be rescheduled.
- 🏠 Presentations must be limited to **ten (10)** minutes.
- 🏠 The cumulative grade for this project, which totals 420 points, will count as a test grade, which is 30% of your semester grade.