

Informative Essay- *The Crucible*

Due: May 12th by 11:59 P.M. to turnitin.com

Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*, was cleverly named. Literally, **a crucible is a container that can withstand high heat**. A crucible is most often associated with the melting of metal, allowing for impurities in the metal to be identified and removed. Metaphorically, **a crucible refers to a severe test—a test that puts great stress upon people, revealing their weaknesses and strengths**. In Miller's play, the characters are all mixed together, tested, and pushed to their melting points. Some of the characters pass their test and some of them do not.

Using this knowledge of literal and metaphorical crucibles, write a well-developed essay in which you identify three characters from the play and analyze their trial by fire. Pay particular attention to the situations that put great stress upon the characters. The stress, like a fire, will burn away the character's pretenses and bring their true natures to light. Be sure to explain how they are tested, how they change as a result, and the significance the test has to the overall meaning of the play. Make sure you support your ideas with textual evidence.

In your essay, please do the following:

- Write an introduction that includes a clearly stated thesis statement.
- Organize and develop your topic with sufficient facts, extended definitions, details, and quotations. In your use of textual evidence, follow guidelines for introducing, punctuating, and explaining the evidence.
- Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- Use the conventions of standard written English and vocabulary relevant to the topic.
- Establish and maintain formal style and objective tone.
- Provide a conclusion that summarizes your ideas and makes your readers think about the choices that determine whether people succeed or fail in the "tests" they face in life.
- Use a standard 12-point Times New Roman font and double spacing for your typed final draft.
- 2 pages long