

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

The Crucible essay

Bigelow, English 11

Write a 5-paragraph essay on the following prompt:

In his modern American tragedy *The Crucible*, how does Arthur Miller show how fear and greed lead to persecution? Use specific examples from the play to support your thesis, and use language in the NHS Glossary of Literary Terms whenever possible. Type your essay in MLA format, and attach this rubric to your essay.

Rubric:

0 = no evidence of proficiency	4 = proficient
1 = minimal evidence of proficiency	5 = exceeding expectations
2 = some evidence of proficiency	6 = outstanding
3 = developing proficiency	

____ There is an interesting and relevant **hook** that refers to a modern-day witch-hunt.

____ There is a clear **thesis statement** that answers the question.

____ The **title, author, and genre** (“tragedy”) are correctly named in the introduction.

____ The essay has **five paragraphs**.

____ **Body paragraphs** are focused and have **clear topic sentences**.

____ There are two well-detailed and relevant **specific examples** or **concrete details** (paraphrases, quotes, descriptions) per body paragraph that support the thesis.

____ There are **quotes**, and they are **embedded (seamlessly woven)** into your own sentences.

____ **Commentary** is insightful and explains how the concrete details (quotes) support the thesis.

____ The **conclusion** restates the thesis and summarizes the main points using **fresh language**.

____ The **conclusion** explains the urgency, importance, and/or relevance of the topic.

____ The language of the essay is **academic**, i.e., no 1st or 2nd person (“I think”, “in my opinion”, “when you consider...”, etc.); no basically, really, very, etc. or other forms of “hamburger helper”; academic word choices (instead of, for example, “good” and “bad”); no slang, abbreviations, or clichés; the present tense is used when referring to events in the story.

____ The essay contains **few or no mechanical errors** (spelling, grammar, punctuation), and **sentences are varied**. (Not everything is noun + verb; there are complex sentences.) Remember to check for run-ons and fragments!

____ The essay is neatly **typed** in **MLA** format.

Total: _____ Divided by 13= _____

Grade: _____ /100*

* Grade Key: 6=105%; 5.5=100%; 5=95%; 4.5=90%; 4=85%; 3.5=80%; 3=75%; 2.5=70%; 2=65%; 1.5=60%