



## **Collection 6: The Modern World**

### **Unit Final: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller Argumentative Essay**

**UNIT GOAL:** Write an argumentative essay that examines the ways which Modern writers and artists emphasize themes in response to social problems and conflicts.

**Prompt 1 Power Analysis:** One of the important motifs worth examining in *The Crucible* is that of power: who has it, how he/she got it, how he/she uses it, and for what ends. Select two characters and examine the ways in which they exercise their authority. Defend your position using precise evidence from the text.

**Prompt 2 John Proctor as Archetype:** Tragic Hero or Christ-like? Make an argument for or against John Proctor's character. Is he a man of integrity or is he beyond redemption? Defend your position

**Prompt 3: Abigail's Defense:** Abigail's faults are quite obvious, but does she deserve the entire blame for the outcome of the play? Why or why not? Support your argument with specific evidence from the play.

**Prompt 4 Theme Analysis:** A crucible is a pot which, because it can withstand great heat, is used to melt iron and other metals. The word "crucible" is also used to describe a severe test or a hard trial. Finally, "crucible" is also used as an adjective to describe a very high grade steel. With these possibilities in mind, which character best illustrates the meaning of the play's title? Why? Support your argument with specific evidence from the play.

**Prompt 5 Theme Defense:** Prove the following statement: "*The Crucible* is essentially about the manner with which power determines truth and justice." Why is this statement true? Support your argument with specific evidence of individuals who fit these ideas from the play.