Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English 11

*The Crucible*

**DUE: October 13th (Tuesday)**

As we have learned, *The Crucible* was written as a social commentary in response to the McCarthy trials of the 1950s. In the play, Miller uses the allegory of the Salem Witch Trials to provide insight into the different aspects of human nature.

Essay Prompt: Demonstrate your understanding of the play by writing a four paragraph essay that responds to the following question:

In *The Crucible*, how does Arthur Miller both critique and praise different aspects of human nature?

Your assignment:

1. Evaluate the prompt.
2. Develop an MI that you will prove through this essay.
3. Create an idea tree (MI, DIs, 4 DQs, AI) that outlines how you will support your argument.
4. Type a four paragraph essay which includes the following:
   * 1. Introduction
     2. DP 1
     3. DP 2
     4. Conclusion with RFS

Pre writing Questions:

1. What are some aspects of human nature that are revealed in the play?
2. From your list, what aspects may be considered to be critical on Miller’s part?
3. From your list, what aspects may be considered to be praiseworthy on Miller’s part?
4. What specific characters embody these traits?

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English

**Human Nature Essay**

*The Crucible*: Miller’s Allegory for Human Nature and Good vs. Evil

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Main Idea/Analysis** | Main Idea is extremely well developed and demonstrates a strong understanding of the prompt; analysis is thorough and directly supports the MI. | Main Idea is well developed and demonstrates a strong understanding of the prompt; analysis directly supports the MI. | Main Idea is clear, but may be lacking some development; some analysis does not directly support the MI. | Main Idea is unclear and lacks development; analysis does not support the MI. |
| **Organization and Structure** | Essay is extremely well organized; has complete and clear topic sentences that effectively answer the prompt; details follow in logical order. | Essay is well-organized; mostly complete and clear topic sentences that effectively answer the prompt; most details follow in logical order. | Essay may have 1-2 errors in organization; details follow in a somewhat logical order but there may be errors in topic sentence structure. | Essay has inadequate topic sentences that do not effectively answer the prompt; details that follow are not in logical order. |
| **Style: Word Choice and Sentence Structure** | Essay includes varied word choice and sophisticated and appropriately used vocabulary words; sentence structure is varied and contributes to the overall fluidity of the essay. | Word choice in the essay is generally varied, sophisticated vocabulary is incorporated throughout most of the paper although 1-2 words may need to be revised; sentence structure is generally varied, but 1-2 passages of the essay may be somewhat choppy. | Some words are repeated continuously throughout the essay; there is a need for more sophisticated vocabulary; sentence structure lacks variation in 3-4 passages and creates a sense of choppiness to the essay. | Essay lacks the incorporation of sophisticated vocabulary and varied sentence structure. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)** | Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. | Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. | Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. | Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content of the essay. |
| **MLA Format/Elements of the Writing Process** | Assignment is in MLA format and all elements of the writing process are included. | 1-2 mistakes in MLA format; some elements of the writing process may be missing. | 3-4 mistakes in MLA format; some elements of the writing process may be missing. | Numerous mistakes in MLA format. Many elements of the writing process are not present. |

**RUBRIC**

**SUMMATIVE FEEDBACK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **STRENGTHS** | **AREAS TO IMPROVE** |
| \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay is well organized, and your MI is clear and developed.  \_\_\_\_\_ Strong incorporation of textual evidence.  \_\_\_\_\_ Good initial analysis points.  \_\_\_\_\_ Meaningful and relevant connections in your RFS.  \_\_\_\_\_ Precise attention to MLA and the writing process. | \_\_\_\_\_ Develop background information in introduction paragraph.  \_\_\_\_\_ Pay attention to organization, specifically topic sentence structure and concluding sentence structure.  \_\_\_\_\_ Support your MI by clarifying and building line of development.  \_\_\_\_\_ Develop more dynamic word choice and sentence structure.  \_\_\_\_\_ Enrich your RFS by placing the text in a larger context.  \_\_\_\_\_ Be consistent with MLA and formatting rules.  \_\_\_\_\_ Proofread to be aware of issues with spelling, grammar and mechanics. |