Sample *The Crucible* Thesis Essay:

Arthur Miller wrote *The Crucible* in response to the McCarthy Trials, in which neighbor accused neighbor of suspected Communism. Miller used the Salem Witch Trials as an allegory in order to highlight the insanity surrounding the turbulent 1950s “Red Scare”. In *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller, Miller praises and critiques different aspects of human nature through specific characters, especially John Proctor. John Proctor, a hardworking and honest man, simultaneously suffers from his own grievous sin: adultery. Miller’s play teaches the audience not to jump to conclusions about those surrounding us, and to view every piece of “evidence” with logic’s razor-sharp edge.

Body (TS and first DQ sandwich):

Miller uses the conflicted character of John Proctor to praise human nature. When Proctor first enters the scene, Miller describes him: “He was...powerful of body, even-tempered, and not easily led...in [his] presence a fool felt his foolishness instantly” (20). Miller’s description of Proctor as a strong, hardworking, and intelligent man favorably depicts him. Miller describes Proctor in this manner so that the reader understands not every person succumbs to “Witch Fever”, and therefore positively represents human nature.