

WITCH HUNTS/HYSTERIA RESEARCH PROJECT

CROUCH ENG III

The most powerful literature is timeless; the events and ideas presented in it are applicable in many time periods. Sometimes timeless literature demonstrates the positive aspects of humanity; other times it highlights some of the recurring negative aspects of society and human nature.

The Crucible was written in the 1950s when Arthur Miller saw frightening parallels between the McCarthy trials and the Salem Witch Trials of nearly 300 years earlier. Sadly, these two events were not the only witch-hunts in American history. For this project, a group of 3 will investigate another witch-hunt in American history.

THE TASK:

Research an **event** from American history or modern American society that is connected to one or two of the themes presented by Arthur Miller in *The Crucible*. This does not mean that your topic needs to involve life or death situations; however, it needs to revolve around a central **event** and not just an **issue**. Find an event when people acted irrationally, crazy, rioted, etc. This event is usually an outgrowth of some larger underlying issue. For example, racism is not an event; it is an issue. The Rodney King riot in L.A. is an event inflamed from the issue of racism. You will need to discover why the people acted irrationally? What are the reasons behind the event? What “set-off” the event; what triggered it?

THE PRODUCT:

You will create a PowerPoint/Prezi/Google Slide Presentation that describes the event and explains how it connects to some of the themes of the play. You will create **15-20 slides** that accomplish the following:

- * Introduce your project with an eye-catching title slide that includes your names and a catchy title (“The Salem Witch Trials” in not a catchy title.), name the event and the issue that it illustrates, such as LA Riots is the event, the issue is illustrates is the fear of being powerless and used by another race.
- * Identify and describe the event including...
 - ❖ The underlying fear behind the event and witch-hunt/hysteria
 - ❖ Scapegoats of the event and how the underlying fear caused the naming of these scapegoats; in other words, why were **these** particular people singled out
 - ❖ Connection to the theme(s), events and/or characters in *The Crucible*
 - ❖ An analysis of the immediate consequences of the event (direct effects). What happened and why as a direct result of the event. In *The Crucible*, innocent people were hanged for being witches and/or defying the court.
 - ❖ An analysis of the far-reaching effects of the event (long-term effects). What happened and why? In *The Crucible*, the theocracy of Puritan New England collapsed in part because the theocracy needed a dependent, submissive following which was no longer necessary
- * Within your slides you must include at least **10 examples of properly cited paraphrasing and/or direct quotations from the play or your research**. Mix the quotes and paraphrasing into your slides. Do not put them on a separate slide. If the information on your slide is not a direct quote, cite your sources using a smaller font in the bottom right of the slide.
- * There’s no need to cite your pictures for this assignment. Cite *The Crucible* by using (Miller, *The Crucible*, Act IV) on the individual slide and Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*. 1952. on your Works Cited page.
- * Your last slide or two (**not counted as part of your 15--20**) must be a correctly formatted Works Cited page. **A minimum of 4 sources should be used and at least 1 should be an in-depth database article.** *The Crucible* should be one of your sources.
- * Wikipedia is NOT a credible source. It’s ok to use it to get some background information but look at the links at the bottom of the Wikipedia page for better sources of info. Wikipedia **cannot** count as one of your sources.

- * The sequence of the slides is up to you. The above is merely a list of what your presentation should include, not the order in which the slides should appear. Decide on the order that makes the most sense for **your** presentation. To help you with your research, use the chart on the next page.

Your group will present your research to the class. Your presentation should be saved on a flash drive AND emailed to me at: acrouch@wcpss.net The best presentations are ones that use PowerPoint as an enhancement to your information. I expect you to present what you have discovered, not to just read what you've typed on the slides. You are the expert on this topic. Share with the class what you have learned.

The day the assignment is due, you will turn in:

- Your copy of the chart sampled on the next page.
- Your rubric
- A properly formatted Works Cited page. This is to be printed in Word, not PowerPoint. This is the only one to be graded.
- An email of your PowerPoint presentation

LAB DAYS: _____

PRESENTATIONS DUE DATE: _____

THE BRAINSTORMING:

Below each of these themes, write down the first events or issues that come to your mind.

Prejudice

dishonesty

fear and discrimination

Peer pressure

guilt

conformity

Ostracism

Power

fanaticism

✍ Research Notes **NAME:** _____

Event & Issue: _____

Background of times (why this event at this time, in this place)	Underlying Fear	Trigger Event (what set off the hysteria? Explain how the "world" went crazy.)	Scapegoats (who got the blame? Why did these people get the blame?)	Who did the blaming?	Immediate/Direct Effect	Long Term Effect	Connection to <i>The Crucible</i> on a thematic level not just plot similarities

NAME: _____

WITCH HUNTS RESEARCH PROJECT RUBRIC

PowerPoint – 5 Points

- Enhancing not distracting use of the features of PowerPoint (color, animation, etc.)
- Visually pleasing fonts and colors; slides are easy to read
- Clever title, event, issue named on 1st slide
- Minimum of 15 slides
- Presentation includes all the requirements of the assignment
- Sources cited and Works Cited slide(s)

Internal Citations – 5 points

- All quoted and/or paraphrased sources cited including *The Crucible*
- Proper formatting of all including *The Crucible*
- Information that is paraphrased or quoted is cited

Mechanics of Presentation – 10 points

- Mechanics (spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.)
- Mechanics of presentation and Works Cited

Content – 50 points

- The event is clearly described
- Clear explanation of background, underlying fear, trigger, scapegoat, themes, etc.
- Organization of information; does one slide lead to the next?
- Direct comparison between *The Crucible* and the chosen event
- Analysis of immediate and long term consequences of the event
- Minimum of 10 Quotes/paraphrasing from play and/or research

In Class Presentation – 20 Points

- Presenters speak clearly and audibly
- Presenters demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the topic
- Presenters do not read from the slides/notes but elaborate upon or add to the content of the slides
- Presenters enhance the class's knowledge of the event
- Presenters enhance the class's understanding & appreciation of *The Crucible* by making clear connections between the event & the play
- Presenters share equal roles
- Presentation covers all the requirements of the assignment

Works Cited – 10 points

- Information that is paraphrased or quoted is cited
- Minimum of 5 sources
- Works Cited is complete and correctly formatted
- At least one in-depth magazine or newspaper article
- At least one book