***The Crucible:* LITERARY ANALYSIS Fall 2012**

* **Choose ONE of the following prompts:**
1. Choose three characters in *The Crucible* who tell significant **lies**. Why do they do this? What does each hope to achieve (or avert) by lying? Does the play suggest that there are times when we should lie?
2. Consider the value of **reputation** in *The Crucible*; discuss how it motivates the actions of three major characters.

What does the play suggest is the importance of one’s “good name”?

1. Discuss *The Crucible* as a **Modern TRAGEDY** (including John Proctor as a **TRAGIC HERO**)—what is the value of reading

the play in the twenty-first century?

1. Discuss the portrayal of **FEMALE CHARACTERS** within *The Crucible.* Consider the social and religious norms of the time.
2. Discuss the role of **MORALITY** as portrayed in *The Crucible.* Consider the hypocrisy, the difference between knowledge and action (“head” vs. “heart”), motivation etc.
3. If you have another prompt idea, you **must** have it approved by me!
* **Assessment Guidelines/Checklist:**

**Content**

* Addresses all aspects of the prompt and assignment **(min: 5 paragraphs / 750 words)**
* **argumentative thesis** clearly states the writer’s position
* Each body paragraph contains **well-chosen** **textual evidence—3 QUOTES FROM THE PLAY per paragraph**

**Organization:**

* Effective Introduction
* TOPIC SENTENCES are persuasively worded and support thesis with a related point
* Concluding paragraph goes beyond restating thesis
* Smooth transitions between and within paragraphs

**Word Choice & Sentence Fluency**

* Diction appropriate for academic writing; words are specific, appropriate, accurate, and concise
* Sentences varied in length and structure

**Conventions**

* Mastery of agreement, verb tense consistency, preposition use
* No comma errors, comma splices, or run-ons
* No 1st or 2nd person pronouns (I, you, our, etc.)
* Correct tense is maintained throughout the paper.

**Presentation:**

* Correct MLA format

**Heading, Header w/ page #, Title, FONT, Parenthetical Documentation, Works Cited page)**

* All quotes are INTEGRATED or INTRODUCED (Who is speaking to whom? About what?)

In Act 4 of *The Crucible,* John Proctor pleads with Hathorne, “I have given you my soul;

leave me my name,” revealing the degree to which he values his reputation (Miller 240).