**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible* Standards Focus: Essay Outline**

**Directons:** Complete the outline using bullet points. Make note of which article you use (by article # or video title) and any direct quotes you take.You may write on this sheet or type your notes. **Central Question: How was the writing of Arthur Miller’s drama *The Crucible* influenced by the Red Scare and the anti-communist witch hunts of the 1950’s?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Introduction:** Invite readers into your essay.Provide an overview into the answer to the central question.  |  |
| **Body 1:** Give an overview of the Salem Witch Trials (who, what, when, where, why, etc.). | TS: Miller based his play *The Crucible* on Salem Witch Trials, which occurred in 1692 in the town of Salem, Massachusetts.  |
| **Body 2: Overview of *The Crucible:*** Provide basic setting, plot and characters of the play. What elements of the Salem trials does Miller focus upon? | TS: Following the historical model of the Salem witch trials, Arthur Miller set his play *The Crucible* in the Puritan village of Salem in 1692. As the play begins, … |
| **Body 3:** Explanation of McCarthyism and Communist Witch Hunts of the 1950’s | TS: Arthur Miller’s own experiences in the 1950’s during the anti-communist with hunts and the McCarthy trials greatly influenced his writing of *The Crucible.*  |
| **Body 4:** Make connections between the Anti-Communist Witch Hunts and *The Crucible.*What connections can you make between the Red Scare, the McCarthy trials and *The Crucible*? | TS: There are many similarities between Miller’s own experience with the anti-communist trials of the 1950’s and his play *The Crucible*.  |
| **Body 5:** Explain Arthur Miller’s own commentary about why he wrote the play.What does Miller say influenced him to write *The Crucible*? |  TS: In his essay, “Why I Wrote The Crucible,” Arthur Miller explains his own motivations for writing the play and the connections to the McCarthy era.  |
| **Body 6: Conclusion**Provide a final summation and your own thoughts.What lessons can the reader learn about false accusations, hysteria and intimidation from these events (and the play)?  |  |