

The Crucible Research Project

Directions: To help us better understand the events that take place within Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*, we must first understand the history behind the events, characters, and conflicts that exist within the play. Therefore, in your group, you will research part of the history behind the story and you will be responsible for presenting this information to the class. Your project will only be a piece of the historical background information that is important for us to understand.

After being assigned a topic, your group is responsible for collaborating to prepare a well-developed presentation to inform the class on your topic.

The Process:

Step 1: Research Questions 5 points

- Review each of the bullet points for your topic – divide the questions amongst your group members, and research on the internet.

Step 2: Group Work 5 points

- Everyone plays a role in putting the important pieces together for the presentation.

Step 3: PowerPoint/Prezi/Poster 10 points

- All information is clearly and creatively displayed on a PowerPoint or Prezi
- Answers to the research questions are easily understood/evident
- Any additional, interesting information found through your research is displayed
- Key words/phrases pop out (anything that will help your peers remember and understand the topic throughout the unit).
- Visuals: At least THREE that are appropriate, relevant, and help to clarify the importance of the topic.
- Overall appeal: these presentations are an important part of the unit, they will be continually referred to and help us better understand the motivations of characters, their behaviors, actions, as well as the events that take place within the play.

Step 4: Presentation 5 points

- Each group will present the information to your peers – all group members are responsible for contributing to the presentation.
- Your presentation must:
 - Clearly explain your topic
 - Address each research question on the poster
 - Be able to answer questions from the class
 - Be sent to my email: roncoroni.faith@pburgsd.net or brought in as a poster

Topics for Research

1. Arthur Miller
2. Historical Witch Hunts
3. The Salem Witch Trials
4. McCarthyism
5. Communism
6. Puritanism

Guiding Notes/Questions for your research –
INCLUDE ONE SELF-GENERATED QUESTION!

Group 1 – Arthur Miller

- Provide Background information
- What are key Events in his life?
- Overview of other works (including *Death of a Salesman*)
- What are his beliefs/political outlook, including communist connections?
- Describe his arraignment by the House Un-American Activities

Group 2 – Historical Witch Hunts

- What are the causes? Focus on the beliefs of the society and the leading figures
- What are the consequences (both for the individuals accused, the accuser, and the society)
- What are some possible ways to have avoided these situations? Be sure your solutions are applicable to the people at that time and in that situation

Groups to Consider:

- the Holocaust, Japanese Internment Camps, Segregation, Rwanda

Group 3 – The Salem Witch Trials of the 1690s

- What events led to these trials?
- Who was involved – as prosecutors? Victims?
- What were the outcomes of the trials?
- How do historians interpret these events?
- In what ways were “Witches” persecuted?

Group 4 – McCarthyism and the crack-down on communists in the 1950s

- What was McCarthyism? Who was Joe McCarthy?
- How is Arthur Miller connected to McCarthyism?
- How did McCarthyism change the American lifestyle?
- What were his aims? Methods? Who were his victims?
- What is HUAC and “Blacklisting”? Who were some of the people on “The Hollywood Blacklist”?

Group 5 – Communism

- What is communism?
- Where did it come from?
- What is the Cold War?
- Who was involved in the Cold War?
- What was the outcome of the Cold War?
- What is the American Communist Party? How did it impact the lives of Americans?

Group 6 – Puritanism

- What type of people settled in Massachusetts?
- How did they survive?
- What were their main fears and anxieties?
- What can you find out about their social structures/hierarchies?
- Give an overview of the Puritan lifestyle and of Puritan beliefs
- What influences of the Puritans continue to exist today?