

# The Crucible: Group Essay

Group Members:

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Based on the Free Response Question 3 of the AP Literature Exam

## Instructions

This assignment is your final assessment of the play that you have been reading with a small group and will count as a summative assessment/major grade. You will have two class blocks to complete it in class. You may work in a group of NO MORE THAN FOUR people, which means that your original play groups may need to divide into smaller sub-groups. You also have the option of breaking off by yourself or working with just a partner.

## This assignment requires you to complete the following (in this order):

1. choose from one of the prompts below to demonstrate your summative understanding of the play
2. dissect the prompt, making sure you understand what it is asking of you
3. discuss the components of the prompt with your group, making notes and planning your essay as you discuss. This is where your literary circle discussion forms will come in handy. Resurrect those from the depths of your notebooks and refer to the observations you made as you read the play.
4. outline your essay
5. write your essay, making sure to include SPECIFIC examples from the text to support your points

## Choose ONE of the following essay prompts. Indicate your choice by checking the appropriate box:

- Option 1 (2014):** It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.
- Option 2 (2004):** Critic Roland Barthes has said, "*Literature is the question minus the answer.*" Choose a novel, or play, and, considering Barthes' observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question the work raises and the extent to which it offers answers. Explain how the author's treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.
- Option 3 (1983):** From a novel or play of literary merit, select an important character who is a villain. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze the nature of the character's villainy and show how it enhances meaning in the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.

**FORMAT:** Indicate your choice by checking the box next to the prompt. Write in blue or black ink on one side of the page only. Edit on the draft; scratch-outs are acceptable, but keep it legible. When you finish, staple this cover sheet to the front of your essay.