

Student Name

Teacher Name

American Literature, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th

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Unique Title Goes Here

- I. Thesis: In Arthur Miller’s play, *The Crucible*, Reverend Parris takes advantage of a fear-stricken community to advance his personal agenda.
- II. Topic Sentence 1: Once Reverend Parris realizes that he can use his authority as the minister of Salem to capitalize off of the town’s fears, he changes his position and ultimately becomes an advocate of the witch trials.
 - A. Evidence (**You will only do one! This is just to show you how you could do each of the three lead-ins**):
 1. **Somebody says**: Even though at the start of the play, Parris says, “There be no unnatural cause [in Salem]” by the end of Act One, he encourages Tituba to give him the names of the witches she saw with the Devil by yelling, “Who? Who? Their names, their names!” (Miller I.3-23)
 2. **Independent clause**: In the beginning of the play, Reverend Parris is certain there is no sign of witchcraft in Salem: “There be no unnatural cause here” (Miller I.3). However, by the end of Act One, Parris forcefully encourages Tituba to tell them the names of the women she saw colluding with the Devil: “Who? Who? Their names, their names!” (Miller I.23).
 3. **Weaving**: Though in the beginning of the play, Reverend Parris is certain that “there be no unnatural cause” for his daughter’s illness in Salem, by the end of Act One, he is fully committed to getting a confession out of Tituba regarding the reason for the girls’ strange behavior as he presses her for “their names, their names” (Miller I.3-23).

B. Reverend Parris is initially worried that witchcraft in Salem, especially his own home, might look poorly on him. However, he soon realizes that he can shift the blame to others and advocate for the witchcraft and trials in the town to gain more power by adding to the townspeople's fear of witches in Salem.

C. Evidence (**You will only do one! This is just to show you how you could do each of the three lead-ins**):

1. **Somebody says**: In "Lessons of Salem," Laura Shapiro writes, "Despite the fact that young girls made the accusations, it was the adults who lodged formal charges against their neighbors and provided most of the testimony" (203).
2. **Independent clause**: In "Lessons of Salem," Laura Shapiro discusses how the fault for the hangings lies mostly on the adults: "Despite the fact that young girls made the accusations, it was the adults who lodged formal charges against their neighbors and provided most of the testimony" (203).
3. **Weaving**: In "Lessons of Salem," Laura Shapiro mentions that even though the "young girls made the accusations, it was the adults who [...] provided most of the testimony" (203).

D. Even though the girls began the accusations, it was through encouragement from people like Reverend Parris that the accusations existed at all. Reverend Parris, and other adults in Salem, used the fear of witches to their advantage to gain power at a time when the town needed someone to steady their worries, not encourage them.

III. Topic Sentence 2: As a result, Reverend Parris uses Tituba's fear of physical violence to deflect blame onto her and protect his own reputation.

- A. Act 1 when Parris directly threatens to whip Tituba to death if she doesn't confess.
- B. Interpretation/Commentary:
- C. "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

D. Interpretation/Commentary:

IV. Topic Sentence 3: Additionally, Parris attempts to steer the court in his direction by exploiting John Proctor's motive to overthrow Danforth's court.

A. Act 3 - "overthrow the court"

B. Interpretation/Commentary:

C. (Secondary) Textual Evidence with Citation

D. Interpretation/Commentary:

V. Concluding Statement: Through blatantly using fear to threaten others into submission and more covertly using fear of witchcraft and the Devil to encourage others, Reverend Parris' use of fear to gain power in *The Crucible* is undeniable. He preys on children, such as Mary Warren, and slaves, such as Tituba, and also the vulnerable, husbands, like John Proctor and Giles Corey, who have wives that have been jailed. Parris does all of this to accomplish his task: protect his own reputation and climb the ladder of power.