Background Work for The Crucible
English 11

**Rationale:** All English 11 students need to read The Crucible this year. Because we will be reading the play and viewing the filmed version together as a class, gaining a basic understanding of the play's historical context will allow us to better understand our text.

**Resources:** The Crucible libguide is a website created by Mrs. Padjen and Mrs. Hlywa filled with links to rich background information that will aid you before and during your reading of the play. The libguide can be found: [http://esmhs.esmschools.libguides.com/crucible](http://esmhs.esmschools.libguides.com/crucible)

**Your Task:**
Your task to this project is twofold.

1) You will work INDIVIDUALLY to examine content found through links in the libguide to answer each of the attached questions/prompts in YOUR OWN WORDS. Some questions may be answered by visiting only one site. Other questions may require you to have to visit several sites in order to answer completely.

2) You will complete an annotated bibliography tracing the sites you visited in your research process.

Once you have completed both parts, add your documents to this assignment on Google Classroom and turn in. You will have just under two class periods to complete this work.

**The Nitty-Gritty:**

**Research Questions**
To complete your research questions, copy and paste the attached questions onto your own Google Doc. Then, type your answers to the questions in a different font color or style from the questions themselves.

**Annotated Bibliography**
Annotated bibliographies are lists of citations followed by brief paragraph(s) describing and evaluating the source. Here is a link to the Easybib website explaining annotated bibliographies and providing examples of how annotated bibliographies should be formatted: [http://www.easybib.com/guides/annotated-bibliographies/](http://www.easybib.com/guides/annotated-bibliographies/) . For our purposes, your annotated bibliography should be completed in APA FORMAT.

For samples from annotated bibliographies, visit these links and read up!
[http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography](http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography)
[https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/)

**Assessment:**
You will receive one grade for your research questions and one for your annotated bibliography.
Background Research Questions

Directions: Use the libguide to answer each question. Be sure your answers are in black text.

TOPIC 1: New England in the 1690s
    What type of people settled Massachusetts?
    How did they survive?
    What were their main fears and insecurities?

TOPIC 2: Witchcraft: Background
    What is witchcraft? Who practiced it?
    What social and religious factors are given to account for the harsh response to witchcraft?
    What can you find out about modern witchcraft or wicca? - just brief ideas

TOPIC 3: The Salem Witch Trials of the 1690s
    What led to these trials?
    Who was involved - as prosecutors? As victims?
    What were the outcomes of the trials?

TOPIC 4: McCarthyism and the crackdown in the 1950s
    What was the Cold War?
    What was McCarthyism? Who was Joe McCarthy? What were his aims?
    Methods? Who were his victims?
    What lead to his eventual downfall?
    What is his legacy in history?

TOPIC 5: Arthur Miller
    Key events in his life.
    What are a few other works he has written?
    His beliefs/political outlook including communist connections.

SYNTHESIZE: How do the events of the 1950’s parallel the events of the 1690’s?