**The Crucible: Character Study**

**Miss Sloan**

**American Literature**

For this final assessment, due **Wednesday, October 9th**, you will select a character from the play *The Crucible* and write an in-depth character study answering the following driving questions:

What is obvious about this character as the reader reads the play?

What other subtle, indirect character traits can the reader infer based on actions, stage directions, or dialog?

How does this character add to the thematic elements of the play (to answer this, you must understand the author’s purpose in writing the play!)?

*Bear in mind as you write:*

Arthur Miller used historical people, and offers some insight into them (generally in stage directions: read those carefully!!) based on their historical background. However, he also used imagination and embellishment to create completely “new” people for the purpose of the play (think of changing Abigail from 11 to 17, and making her have an affair with John Proctor!). Look carefully at the stage directions and asides, the characters’ actions, and their dialogue. You may make assumptions, but should always support those with textual evidence.

**Please use textual evidence as follows:**

Miller allows us to see how frightening Abigail can be, and how potentially violent, when she threatens her friends with a “pointy reckoning” (Miller 144).

You should have AT LEAST three direct textual references (quotes from the play) in your paper, and more would be even better.

**Please use the following literary terms as you examine character:**

Flat – a character with only one dimension, almost caricateurish. Generally not a major character, but can still serve an important purpose.

Round – a character with complexity and many dimensions, more realistic and believable.

Static – a character whose personality/morality does not change through the course of a work.

Non-static – a character who undergoes some kind of significant change throughout the course of a work.

Foil – a character who serves as a contrast to another character (usually has some opposite personality traits)

Stereotype – a character based on cultural assumptions of some kind