English II Honors 2013: Essay Assignment #1: Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible***Task:** *Write a six-paragraph essay defending an original thesis formulated as the answer to a personal research question. Support your argument with textual evidence, including at least 1 secondary source.***I. Choose an Interpretive “Lens”**
Feminist – Gender Roles, Oppression of Women, Patriarchy, Power and Powerlessness
Historicist – Influence of Events, Repeating Patterns, National Development, Government
Psychological – Envy, Mass Hysteria, Scapegoating, Freud’s Theories, Character Motivations
Moral/Philosophical – Right and Wrong, Human Nature, Heroism, Symbolism, Religious Themes

**II. Question the text from this perspective**.
Writing a good thesis depends on asking a good question. What are you interested in “asking” this text?
Example (Psychological): What does Miller suggest about the link between conformity and violence?

**III. Do some research and thinking………………………

IV. Answer your question by writing a (potential) thesis.**Example: *The Crucible* demonstrates the contagious spread of violence through conformist communities such as Salem, which inevitably results in the sacrifice of a scapegoat to preserve order  **V. Flowchart your thesis, finding textual evidence. (See flowchart on the back.)**

**VI. Write the introduction.**-Opening sentence: Brings the reader through the “doorway” into the world of your paper.
-Plot and/or author information: Only what is relevant to your paper. Approximately 3-4 sentences.
-Thesis statement: Must be interesting, specific, and structure with a subject and parallel verb structure.

**VII. Write the body paragraphs**
-Always open a body paragraph with a thesis point, which anchors the paragraph.
-Always include at least two quotations: contextualized, integrated, cited and linked back to thesis.
-Always close with a sentence that makes sense at the end of a paragraph. Restate point or set up next.

**VIII. Write the conclusion, restating thesis, summarizing, and answering the question, “Ok – so what?”**As readers “exit” your essay, leave them thinking about the real-world significance of your ideas.  **IX. Get feedback. (Required: 1 fellow student; 1 qualified adult.)**
**X. Make changes based on feedback, then read your paper aloud. Edit it again and turn it in.
Due Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**