English 11

Mrs. Desmond

Due on turnitin.com: January 14, 2019

**Constructed Response to Arthur Miller’s The Crucible**

*A constructed response is a paragraph assignment in which you take a position on an idea and use evidence from the text to support your position.*

Your Task: Create two evidence-based claims to analyze character motivation and conflict development in Acts 3 and 4 of *The Crucible*.

HERE IS YOUR CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE PROMPT:

**Throughout *The Crucible,* the actions of characters are driven by distinct and varied motivations. Choose two characters from the play and describe thoroughly what motivates their individual actions regarding the witch trials. Your analysis should focus on Acts 3 and 4 of *The Crucible*.**

Guidelines:

You will create a separate constructed response paragraph for each chosen character (for a total of two paragraphs). In each paragraph:

* Write a thoughtful and effective topic sentence to begin the paragraph.
* Then write three sentences explaining your claim in further detail.
* Effectively incorporate properly cited evidence from the text.
* Wrap up your paragraph with an effective clincher sentence.

MODEL CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE PROMPT:

In Act 1 Tituba, Abigail, and Betty name people whom they claim accompanied the Devil. Explain why these three characters declare that they saw certain people with the Devil. What circumstances motivated them to name specific individuals?

MODEL RESPONSE:

*Topic sentence*: In Act 1 of Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible,* Tituba, Abigail, and Betty declare that they saw certain individuals with the devil simply out of self-preservation.

*Explanation sentences*: After the girls’ misconduct in the forest was revealed, public opinion quickly attributed the mysterious illnesses on two of the girls involved to witchcraft. Confronted with facing the noose for allegedly compacting with the Devil, their only option was to provide a full “confession” of their sins, including names of those who the Reverends might believe enticed them to engage in black magic. Pressured by relentless demands to name specific individuals, Tituba names two women already under suspicion by many of the townspeople and is immediately exonerated of all her misdeeds.

*Evidence from the text*: Being a true opportunist, Abigail follows suit, claiming “I saw Sarah Good with the Devil! I saw Goody Olson with the Devil! I saw Bridget Bishop with the Devil!” which opens the door for Betty to join them by naming other plausible witches in the town (Miller 45).

*Clincher sentence* (restates the claim, and provides closure to the paragraph):

In validating the suspicions of the townspeople, the girls strengthen each other’s claims while conveniently absolving themselves from any guilt or culpability.

Full paragraph:

In Act 1 of Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible,* Tituba, Abigail, and Betty declare that they saw certain individuals with the devil simply out of self-preservation. After the girls’ misconduct in the forest was revealed, public opinion quickly attributed the mysterious illnesses on two of the girls involved to witchcraft. Confronted with facing the noose for allegedly compacting with the Devil, their only option was to provide a full “confession” of their sins, including names of those who the Reverends might believe enticed them to engage in black magic. Pressured by relentless demands to name specific individuals, Tituba names two women already under suspicion by many of the townspeople and is immediately exonerated of all her misdeeds. Being a true opportunist, Abigail follows suit, claiming “I saw Sarah Good with the Devil! I saw Goody Olson with the Devil! I saw Bridget Bishop with the Devil!” which opens the door for Betty to join them by naming other plausible witches in the town (Miller 45). In validating the suspicions of the townspeople, the girls strengthen each other’s claims while conveniently absolving themselves from any guilt or culpability.