

Mr. Francis
American Literature II

Argumentative Essay

In the production notes for The Crucible (1953), Arthur Miller writes "[The Puritans] believed, in short, that they held in their steady hands the candle that would light the world" (5). He was, perhaps, paraphrasing (among other things) John Winthrop's allusion to a "City upon a Hill," from A Model of Christian Charity (1630).

Miller continues by asserting of the United States: "We have inherited this belief, and it has helped and hurt us" (op. cit.).

Write an essay that examines the extent to which Miller's assertion characterizing America holds true today. Use appropriate evidence to support your argument.

Your challenge: To use historical, literary, and/or personal examples to attack, defend, or modify Miller's assertion. You must address The Crucible.

Length guidelines: 200-350 words. Do not exceed two pages.

Format guidelines: All submissions must be double-spaced with a Courier New font and one-inch margins all around.

Assessment: Your response will be assessed pass/fail based on how adequately and appropriately it addresses the prompt.

Submission guidelines: Late submissions will not be accepted. Please upload to turnitin.com by 7:59 a.m. on the assigned due date.

Any assistance in completing this assignment (including your classmates, the instructor, on-line resources, any printed material, etc.) should be noted in your declaration. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.