

The Crucible Essay

Introductions

What should you include in your intro?

- Mention the author and the title of the text you are analyzing. (In this case, Arthur Miller and *The Crucible*.)
- Inform your audience of your topic. Give an overview of your topic; provide some background and context.
- End with your thesis statement.

Your intro (and essay, for that matter) should not contain the following: “I” or “you” (unless these words are part of a quote) or contractions (say “cannot” instead of “can’t”).

A Sample Introduction

In Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel *The Scarlet Letter*, the character of Arthur Dimmesdale changes over the course of the novel. Dimmesdale first appears in the novel as the young minister who often comes to Hester's aid, but as the novel continues, he becomes physically weaker and emotionally tormented. Dimmesdale's suffering and decline are a result of the guilt he feels over the secret that he is the father of Hester's child from his adulterous affair with Hester, and the consequences he suffers illustrates Hawthorne's message that harboring a secret sin is far more disastrous than confronting a dangerous truth.