

The Crucible
Essay--
Body
Paragraphs

Body Paragraphs (the MEAL plan)

- (M) Each body paragraph should be focused on a main point or main idea. This point should support your thesis statement.
- (E) You should include a quote from the text as evidence to support your main point.
- (A) You should analyze the importance of the quote. What does it show us?
- (L) You should link this explanation to your thesis.

Example:

THESIS: Abigail's desire for John Proctor brings the town of Salem to destruction.

BODY PARAGRAPH:

Abigail's desire for John Proctor is evident very early in the play. As more is discovered about what the girls were actually doing in the woods with Tituba, the reader discovers that Abigail actually wants to bring harm to John Proctor's wife, Elizabeth. When Abigail and the other girls are discussing their actions, Betty exclaims to Abigail, "You drank blood . . . You drank a charm to kill Goody Proctor" (13). The fact that Abigail wishes to kill Elizabeth shows just how far she is willing to go for the love of John Proctor. This desire leads to a spiral of events that brings harm not just to Elizabeth, but also to many people in Salem.

Quoting

When you use a quote, you need to set it up correctly. Lead in with a phrase that tells us the speaker and who is spoken to. Make sure you end with your page number in a parenthetical citation.

Betty exclaims to Abigail, “You drank blood . . . You drank a charm to kill Goody Proctor” (13).