**McCarthyism and the Crucible**

Written in 1953 by Arthur Miller, the Crucible is an American play which dramatized and partially fictionalized the story of the Salem Witch Trials of 1692-93. Miller wrote the play as an allegory (extended metaphor used to illustrate and compare complex issues) of McCarthyism. Eventually, Miller himself will be brought before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in 1956 and convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to identify others present at meetings he attended.

**McCarthyism**: In the 1940s and 1950s Americans feared the encroachment of Communism. The Soviet Union was growing in power and the threat of a nuclear holocaust was on the forefront of American minds. Eastern Europe had become a conglomerate of Communist satellite nations. Throw in China and Americans began to feel they were surrounded by a Communist threat. Paranoia ensued.

***The Crucible***: Salem established itself as a religious community in the midst of evil. Salemites considered the forest the domain of the devil. Salem was surrounded by forest. Paranoia ensued.

**McCarthyism**: Joseph McCarthy, U.S. Senator, made unsubstantiated claims that more than 200 "card carrying" members of the Communist party had infiltrated the United States government. He had no proof.

***The Crucible***: Delusional girls make unsubstantiated claims about the existence of witches in Salem. They have no proof.

**McCarthyism**: McCarthy's unsubstantiated claims ruined lives and led to increased hostility.

***The Crucible***: The girls unsubstantiated claims ruin lives and lead to increased hostility in Salem.

**McCarthyism**: Those who were accused were assumed guilty, put on trial, and expected to divulge the names of other Communist sympathizers. Failure to do so led to sanctions.

***The Crucible***: Those who are accused are assumed guilty, put on trial, expected to confess, and expected to accuse others of being witches. Failure to do so leads to death.

**McCarthyism**: The media were not willing to stand up to Senator McCarthy for fear of being accused of being a Communist.

***The Crucible***: Townspeople are not willing to stand up to the court for fear of being accused of being a witch.

**McCarthyism**: Arthur Miller was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee and subsequently blacklisted.

***The Crucible***: Arthur Miller wrote it.

Describe how Arthur Miller proved the state “history often repeats itself” in his famous play, *The Crucible*. Your answer must be a FULL PARAGRAPH (AT LEAST FIVE SENTENCES).