

Letter to the governor of Salem, Massachusetts

Imagine you are a citizen of Salem in 1692. Write a letter to the governor demanding that the witch trials end. Use evidence from your reading of *The Crucible* (with citations) to support your demand. Be sure to argue against others who would like to see the trials continue. Of course, you may wish to plea for a continuance of the trials. If so, be persuasive!

Rubric:

CATEGORY	4- Above Standards	3- Meets Standards	2-Approaching Standards	1- Below Standards	Score
Position Statement	The position statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic	The position statement provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic	A position statement in present, but does not make the author's position clear	There is no position statement	/4
Attention Grabber	The introduction has a strong hook or attention grabber that is appropriate for the audience. This could be a strong statement, a relevant quotation, statistic, or question addressed to the reader.	The introduction has a hook or attention grabber, but it is weak, rambling or inappropriate for the audience.	The author has an interesting introduction but the connection to the topic is not clear	The introduction is not interesting AND is not relevant to the topic	/4
Support for the Position (x2)	Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence that support the position statement. The writer anticipates the reader's concerns, biases or arguments and has provided at least 1 counter-argument.	Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence that support the position statement.	Includes 2 pieces of evidence that support the position statement	Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence	/8
Closing Paragraph	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position.	The conclusion is recognizable.	The conclusion is present, but does not give a sense of closure to the letter	There is no conclusion – the letter just ends.	/4
Grammar & Spelling (divide by 2)	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content	/2

TOTAL (22)
