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English III

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*The Crucible* Argumentative Essay

In *The Crucible,* there were a few people who could have been responsible for starting the entire "Witch Trial" situation. There were liars, people who wanted to keep a good name, so they would do anything to protect their reputation, and there were people who actually told the truth and were the good guys. Many died because of these people that were responsible for the uproar. Ruth Putnam, Mary Warren, and Ruth Putnam were the main ones responsible for everything that happened during this time period in Salem, Massachusetts.

Ruth Putnam was responsible for starting the circumstances because she faked her illness by acting sick the day after everything went down in the woods with the girls. When Ruth "got sick" everyone started looking for answers as to why this was happening to her. As soon as the girls saw an opportunity to get out of trouble, they took it. They blamed her sickness on witchcraft and started accusing people so they were in the clear. If Ruth had not faked her sickness, they wouldn't have had anything to use as a beginning story.

Marry Warren was responsible because she changed her story in the middle of a trial with John Proctor, who was trying to save his wife Elizabeth by claiming the girls were all lying, and Mary, being one of the girls, he could use as proof. At first, Mary was telling the truth and was backing John up, but when the Judge had the other girls brought in, she backed down because the girls were trying to accuse her of witchcraft for ratting them out. If Mary would have stuck to John's side, maybe there would have been a chance for justice in Salem, depending on what Judge Danforth had to say about the lying. Mary was on both sides the whole time, and if she would have picked the good side, then John would still be alive, and the trials would have ended after their trial.

Though Judge Danforth had a big ego, and Reverend Parris was standing up for Abigial the whole time, they did not have AS much responsibility as the other three girls did. Judge Danfort was trying to keep his good name and didn't care about justice, he just wanted to be seen as a good judge. Reverend Parris was trying to protect his niece, Abigail the whole time because if she were to be caught lying, she would have been hanged. Reverend Parris was her uncle and he was only trying to protect his family.

Abigail Williams, the leader of the lying girls, was the main one responsible for the Witch Trials. She was the one who started blaming people for witchcraft, therefor, she was the one who got people killed ultimately. She was a lair, and the most manipulative of all the girls. She could definitely put on a show in front of people. She cried wolf multiple times and many people were accused because of Abigail's fear to save herself and her friends from their own convictions. "Let you beware, Mr. Danforth. Do you think yourself so mighty the Devil may not turn your wits?" Abigail said to Mr. Danforth when he began to question the truth while in the courtroom with Mary and John. She is conniving and evil, and does whatever she needs to do to take down the people who get in her way.

Ruth, Mary, and Abigail are the ones responsible for the uproar in Salem and there's so much proof to back this statement up. They all did things that ruined lives, reputations, and people's names. Abigail played the biggest part in causing the trials, and she cost the most lives. There were many people who died, were accused, and either lied or confessed. None of this would have even happened if Ruth wouldn't have faked her sickness, Mary wouldn't have changed her story, and Abigail hadn't accused so many people and lied on so many people.