

## Brainstorm

**Intro**

**Background**

**Reasoning - The Cause**

**Evidence - Or lack of evidence**

**Conclusion**

**-Read about Hollywood blacklist**

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/mccarthy/blacklist.html>

**-Watch/research McCarthy/Welch exchange :**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAur\\_I077NA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAur_I077NA)

**-Read about HUAC**

[http://www.rtmsd.org/cms/lib/PA01000204/Centricity/Domain/222/House\\_of\\_Un-American\\_Activities\\_and\\_questions.PDF](http://www.rtmsd.org/cms/lib/PA01000204/Centricity/Domain/222/House_of_Un-American_Activities_and_questions.PDF)

**Read "Why I Wrote The Crucible" by Arthur Miller**

<http://www.dlackey.org/weblog/docs/Why%20I%20Wrote%20the%20Crucible.pdf>

<http://www.coldwar.org/articles/50s/senatorjosephmccarthy.asp>

[https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/Have\\_you\\_no\\_sense\\_of\\_decency.htm](https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/Have_you_no_sense_of_decency.htm)

<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1769.html>

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/mccarthy-army-hearings-begin>

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6456/>

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx/JoeMcCarthy/report.html>

## **Syouta-Notes**

**-The Reason why McCarthy started the HUAC was to spark back attention to the Cold War.**

**-Got out of hand and McCarthy became power thirsty**

**McCarthy = Paris**

**Arthur Miller = Multiple characters incl. Proctor**

**It spread because everybody feared the HUAC**

**I got this from Wikipedia but I thought this was relevant**

The 1952 Arthur Miller play *The Crucible* used the Salem witch trials as a metaphor for McCarthyism, suggesting that the process of McCarthyism-style persecution can occur at any time or place. The play focused on the fact that once accused, a person had little chance of exoneration, given the irrational and circular reasoning of both the courts and the public. Miller later wrote: "The more I read into the Salem panic, the more it touched off corresponding images of common experiences in the fifties."

- Arthur Miller talks about both being theatrical
  - People were fainting in *The Crucible*
  - McCarthy found a scapegoat
    - they blamed communism because things weren't going well
  - Same as Salem
    - People were being sued there were witches
  - They are too scared to speak up because they would be blamed
  - Truman said there was not problem at the beginning
    - but changed his mind after hearing about McCarthy
    - same as Paris
  - Communist comes from a struggling period
  - Witch trial
    - Scapegoats
    - indian raid
    - bad crops
    - bad winter
    - droughts
  - Fertile land for fear to grow
  - The first part was for finding the truth.
    - WOf hunt in salem
    - red hunt in McCarty
    - Everybody feared they would victims
    - 1692 there were no witches
      - everyone doing something unusual was execution
      - Thoroughly believed there were witches
  - Contrast
    - McCarty - there were some people who believed in communism. However not strongly
    - 1692- They were able to blame people with spectral evidence. There was no evidence. Random birds appearing
    - Communism. Convict somebody based on what you think somebodys thoughts were

- Both times is a warning against blind panic

## **Isaac-Notes**

Notes for Crucible

Arthur miller talks about Senator McCarthy "theatricality" = exaggeration and making too big a deal

Hearings were very over the top and crazy LIKE Salem witch trials

Arthur Miller says "capitalism has nothing left to say" people were branching away from capitalism exploring different kinds of thoughts like communism

Puritan way of religious extremism did not associate well with young people

McCarthy found a scapegoat = someone to blame

Says the scapegoat is communists in USA much like how Salem witch trials use witches in the community as the scapegoat

Paralysis of people who do not believe in the scapegoat, but too afraid to speak up

People who speak up about not believing are rare

McCarthy hearings = press Truman says there is no "communist problem" but eventually gave in and set up "loyalty boards" that are sort of tests to prove that usa citizens ARENT communist MUCH like Salem witch trials with Parris

World war 2 = anti semitism

Jews = communists = common belief

Bad crops and many problems happening, blame on the scapegoat

HUAC = Court

Set up to find the real truth of what's going on but really just find who are communists or witches

Set up a hunt to find these people = everyone knew and very afraid of

1692 Salem witch trials had NO WITCHES but if something is not normal, they think it's a witch

McCarthy hearings actually had some people who were communist but not to extent of what McCarthy saw and didn't want to overthrow govt or anything

1692 you can convict people and arrest for SPECTRAL EVIDENCE = basically fake evidence that is supposed to be witchcraft that they believe

Thoughts and conventions of COMMUNISM were the same evidence that people were arrested for

## WARNING ABOUT BLIND PANIC

Showcases how foolish people are

## Outline

### Intro - Syouta

### Background - Will

- Red Scare of America
  - Who is it about? - Joseph McCarthy accused the whole United States of being pro communist.
  - What happened? - Joseph McCarthy wanted any easy way to scare the American
  - When did it take place? - In the 1950's, when the Civil War was happening
  - Where did it take place? - The whole United States
  - Why did it happen? - Because it was a political tactic used by McCarthy to ensure that he would be re-elected as Senator. It succeeded at first because of the fear that it created of being accused.
  - How did it happen? -
- HUAC Committee
  - Accused people left and right
  - Started off with insignificant poeple
    - but then got greedy and started to name important people- which then it failed. Because everybody wanted to accuse somebody to get rid of them.
  - Succeeded at first because of everybodys fear
- Welch's "have you no sense of decency" made Americans more brave and started to go against McCarthy. McCarthy' support vanished after that.

- Entertainment committee struggles because of the hollywood blacklist.
- Started because McCarthy's speech that said he had 205 people's names who were communist. However, it just ended up that they did not have 205 people and the people weren't even communists.
- McCarthy did this with no real evidence...
- Salem Witch Hunt
  - Who is it about? -
  - What happened? -
  - When did it take place? -
  - Where did it take place? -
  - Why did it happen? - Because the community had many flaws including Indian Raids, crop failure, harsh winters, and droughts.
  - How did it happen? - Tituba and the girls were found dancing and the community assumed that they were performing witchcraft. It also happened partly because of all the other bad factors.

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### **Reasoning - The Cause - Isaac**

- McCarthy/Abigail reasoning for accusations
  - Abigail wanted John Proctor
  - McCarthy wanted to raise his rep
  - Scapegoat from the bad in both times
- Fear to speak up
  - Speak up against communism = you're a communist
  - Speak up against witchcraft = you're a witch/possessed
  - Fear changed opinions
  - No one wanted to be associated with accused
- Rise to power
  - Exaggeration and outrageous claims
  - Lies, lies, lies
  - No evidence to support or go against
  - Abigail + girls were only victims so the only ones who can testify
  - McCarthy had a list of communists in the United States

### **Evidence - Or lack of evidence - Christian**

- No real evidence
- Placed blame
- Ignorance of the court

## **Conclusion - Syouta**

- Whoever comes in the way is a bother and they should be removed
- How to prevent things like this in the future.

## **Rough Draft**

### **Intro - Syouta**

We see tragedies of corrupt people gaining power in many occasions throughout history. We see this happen in the Red Hunt operated by Senator Joseph McCarthy in the mid 1900's and the Salem Witch Trials depicted by Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucibles*. This paper will discuss the background, connection, cause, and the false accusations of both tragedies.

### **Background - Will**

The Red Scare of America was a nationwide fear for the spread of communism. It was an ideal scenario for the fear of communism to spread because of the strong stance of President Harry Truman who was extremely against communism. Joseph McCarthy was a senator for Wisconsin. However, McCarthy's lack of success during his first term caused him to choose the route of becoming corrupt to ensure that he would be re-elected. He made false accusations that there were 205 people in the Communist Party of America, and they were ready to take control of America. The American Public bought into the idea, and the witch hunt had begun. However, it was later found out that his "list" of 205 communists that McCarthy had appealed was completely false. McCarthy had only dug up names of random people who did not have any association with communism.

In addition to McCarthy, the HUAC was set up to try and find the non-existent communists inside the United States. The HUAC committee targeted Hollywood because they thought that communism could be manipulated into the people's minds through movies. They started

investigations on actors, producers, and other filmmaking contributors. The climax of the investigation came when the Hollywood 10 group refused to open up about their activities. This caused suspicion, and eventually resulted in a blacklist, the Hollywood Blacklist. Many actors were accused of being communist supporters, and were put on the list. The list made it impossible for the talented actors and filmmakers to even get ordinary jobs.

The turnaround of the Red Hunt occurred when McCarthy started to victimize bigger figures in society like the United States Army. In an army hearing defended by Joseph N. Welch, McCarthy used tactics of bullying to show that even the US Army was being controlled by communism. In a scene of the hearing, Welch interrupted McCarthy mid sentence saying, “Senator, may we not drop this? We know he belonged to the Lawyers Guild. Let us not assassinate this lad further, Senator. You’ve done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?” The “he” in the quote refers to Fred Fischer a lawyer in Welch’s firm who belonged to a Guild that had a little communist influence. After the quote was made, people started to realise that communism was not the biggest issue, but McCarthy was. The support for McCarthy quickly declined, and approximately three years after the end of his corruption, he died due to alcoholism.

In close comparison, the Salem Witch Trials had many aspects that were similar to the Red Hunt. Salem in 1692 was filled with problems within the community such as crop failure, harsh winters, Indian raids, and droughts. The community seemed to be searching for a way to blame someone or something for all the bad happening in the community. The perfect opportunity came when the girls were caught dancing in the woods. The community quickly assumed that the girls were practicing witchcraft, and the reason for all the troubles in Salem was because of the witchcraft.

After determining that the “problem” was witchcraft, people started throwing out names, hoping that they would not be accused for performing such evil things. However, a few people were able to outthink and used it as an opportunity to accuse people whom they disliked. This caused the hysteria of the whole witch hunt in Salem. The hunt got out of hand and people were starting to get killed for not admitting that they were witches, when in fact they weren’t. This caused people to try and avoid being accused which caused fingers to be pointed in all directions

to redirect accusations from themselves. Even though the whole community knew that there were no witches, they could not stand up.

### **Connection - Syouta**

The Red Hunt and The Salem Witch Trial has a connection because of the play written by Arthur Miller. Miller was a victim in the Red Hunt, and he was accused of being a communist. However, rather than just being like the crowd and blaming each other, he stood up for himself and the community saying that all of the communist hunts were pathetic and false. He was blacklisted by the community for appealing his thoughts of the Red Hunt. During this time, Miller made the connection between the witch hunt for communists to the Salem Witch Trials. *The Crucibles* was written to show that history had repeated itself. The presence of John Proctor in the play could be closely seen as Arthur Miller himself. John Proctor stood up for himself during the witch trials, just like Miller had during the Red Hunt. *The Crucibles* was not only a play about the Salem Witch Trials, but it included the fear that Miller felt when the similar event of the Red Hunt occurred.

### **Reasoning - The Cause - Isaac**

As more people became afraid of communism, Senator Joseph McCarthy brought to light the idea that the United States had communists hiding inside the government. McCarthy saw that things weren't going very well at the moment, and essentially used the idea of hidden communists as a scapegoat to put the blame onto the communists. McCarthy also used the idea of communists to benefit himself in the election. The Salem Witch Trials ended up the same way, in that Abigail Williams called out people and accused them of being witches as a scapegoat of her own, to take the blame off of her, a reason for all the bad happening, and for her own personal gain. Abigail wanted to be with John Proctor so she used the bigger picture of witches in their community as an excuse to sentence people to death.

The American people believed in what McCarthy said about their being communists in the United States, but knew that if they spoke up, they would be accused of communism as well. The community people were the same way and weren't all completely convinced that these



innocent people were witches, but fear prevented them from speaking up, as the few who did speak up were accused as well. McCarthy used the ability of fear to brainwash the minds of the people and get the people to believe in the communist idea, to the point where they didn't want to even associate themselves with knowing someone who's accused. This is the same in *The Crucible*, where Giles Corey did not want to let Judge Danforth know who told him about how the girls were calling witchcraft upon innocent people because he knew it would be nothing but bad for that person.

Senator McCarthy and Judge Danforth both respectively were able to gain the belief of these people through their outrageous claims and lack of evidence. McCarthy wanted to help his reputation, so he created the scapegoat of communism in the United States with the evidence being a list of people that he acquired. Judge Danforth used a list as well to discover the witches, a list from Abigail Williams that had no background or proof to the accusations other than her word. McCarthy was able to keep up the act and accusations through the hearings, and arrested all who were thought to think or act like how a communist would. Danforth arrested and executed the innocent people for being witches by the use of spectral evidence, which was one-sided and let the victim do whatever they like to accuse those of witchcraft. There didn't end up being any witches in Salem, or communists in the United States to the extent that McCarthy spoke of, and all created the giant idea of blind panic.

### **Evidence - Or lack of evidence - Christian**

In both the Salem Witch Trials and the McCarthy trials, there was no real evidence presented. There were no actual witches in Salem, and most of the people on the Black List were not actually communists. Everybody simply wanted something or someone to blame. The people of Salem were going through several hardships such as Indian raids, bad crops, long winters, and drought. In time of need, they wanted something or someone to blame. The American people wanted someone to blame for the bad economy. So they began to place the blame on innocent people. In Salem, people were falsely accused of committing witchcraft, and in the Red Hunt people in the show business were accused of trying to turn America into a communist country.

Since the United States economy was suffering they looked to the communists as the ones at fault. The HUAC created a “Black List” which was a list of people in show business that were blamed for subliminally putting un-American messages into movies. Much like how any innocent person could be blamed for being a witch, any actor or actress could be blamed for being a communist and put on the “Black List”. There was no proof to any of the accusations. Even though they did find some communists, it wasn’t because they had previous evidence of it. People could be blamed for any reason. If someone was disliked, they could easily be accused of being a witch. If someone said a line in a film that was considered to be un-American, it would have earned them a spot on the list. The ignorance of the justice system ruined a lot of people’s lives. All the so-called witches were hung and all of the so-called communists were looked down upon, and unemployed.

In both cases those accused began to use other innocent people as a scapegoat, hoping to save themselves by shifting the attention elsewhere. Most of the time this method worked. It just proves how gullible the court was and how easy it was to throw people under the bus. This happened in *The Crucible* where Abigail was caught dancing naked in the woods. Instead of confessing to her crimes, she decided to put false blame on several other people throughout Salem. It also happened several times during the McCarthy trials where actors were trying to save their own jobs.

In both situations there was little to no evidence. To this day, there still has been no hard evidence that witches exist but if somebody back then said they saw them, then maybe they did. It’s impossible to disprove that they saw witches and it’s impossible to prove accusations without cold hard facts. The lack of evidence from both situations went on to show that power could sway the minds of others.

### **Conclusion - Syouta**

Both the Red Hunt and the Salem Witch Trials came from a time when the community was struggling. In the Red Hunt, the civil war and the outspread of communism in Europe. In the Salem Witch Trials, the failure of crops, harsh weather, and Indian attacks. Rather than just accepting this fact, people created hysteria and caused fear within the community. The effects of this were bad enough for people not to stand up because of the fear that they would be accused.

Looking back at these two historical times we can conclude that we must not only be careful about the blind panic, but prevent it before it happens. False accusations taken to extremes are dangerous to the community and may cause a society to crumble. Corruption must be stopped before it is too late.