*The Crucible* in class essay

**Digital Surveillance**

During the Salem Witch Trials as depicted in *The Crucible*, Judge Danforth states the memorable line that “a person is either with this court or against it, there is no road between” and that if a person of solid moral standing they will not be accused of witchcraft. Similarly, the phrase “If you have nothing to fear, you have nothing to hide” has been echoed throughout history as governments and protection agencies seek to keep the best interests for citizens of this country. This protection comes in many different forms and as the world changes, threats change, and governments must adapt to keep up. However, as changes occur the question must be constantly asked: if these new methods of “safe keeping” and protecting the public are right and just. In the 1950’s it was the threat of communism that raised this issue. Most recently, this issue has come to light in the form of the National Security Agency keeping track of billions of phone records of unknowing Americans in order to quell terrorism efforts.

*Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the impact of privacy and protection.*

**Perspective One**

Digital tracking of phone records, web searches, and even social media posts can be helpful to prevent violent crime and terrorism in the United States. The government has a duty to protect its citizens and to do this in the digital age it must use digital techniques. A person only should worry if they have done something illegal.

**Perspective Two**

Digital surveillance is a violation of our 4th amendment rights which promises “the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.” By capturing even something as simple as phone call lengths and recipients, the government is overstepping its bounds in respecting citizen privacy.

**Perspective Three**

By utilizing new technology and data collecting, the government is saving lives and money. The data collect of people’s personal information is so great that anonymity (privacy) is maintained unless a red flag comes up. As the world chances, protection forces must become more efficient.

**Essay Task**

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the impact of censorship on society. In your essay, be sure to:

* analyze and evaluate the perspectives given
* state and develop your own perspective on the issue
* explain the relationship between your perspective and those given

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of the others, in partial agreement, or wholly different. Whatever the case, support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed, persuasive examples.

**Outlining Essays**

**Objective CCSS 11.W.5 – Develop writing through planning techniques**

For the essay prompt “Digital Surveillance”, your assignment is to, on a separate sheet of paper, create an outline for a 5 paragraph essay. Use the Roman Numeral, ABC, 123 format complete with indentations to easily see the flow and format of the essay ideas.

Below is an outline frame you are to use. While you will not be required to write complete sentences (this is an outline), you must convey enough information so Mr. Restad can evaluate you on the following:

*The response exhibits a skillfully organizational strategy. The response is unified by a controlling idea or purpose, and a logical progression of ideas increases the effectiveness of the writer’s argument. Transitions between and within paragraphs strengthen the relationships among ideas.*

1. Introduction (probably 1 paragraph)
   1. Introduce the issue. Show you know what the question is really about.
   2. What is your stance on the issue?
2. Rationale Paragraphs (probably ~2-3 paragraphs)
   1. TS: Topic sentence supporting your stance
   2. Provide example 1 - *solid and clearly different reasons that your perspective is a good one.*
   3. Reasoning ↑
   4. Provide example 2
   5. Reasoning ↑
   6. Provide example 3
   7. Reasoning ↑
3. Counter Argument
   1. Topic sentence of an idea addressing the other perspectives
   2. Explain the validity of this perspective
   3. Provide an example of why this perspective might cause issue.
4. OPTIONAL Conclusion
   1. If you have time, brainstorm a topic sentence for a concluding paragraph.

***EXAMPLE:***

1. *TOPIC*
   1. *The issue of the right to privacy on digital devices is a contentious issue as one ruling could provide a slippery slope to other, invasive practices. Balance between privacy and protection.*
   2. *Perspective 2: The government needs to be able to a digital world by examining digital information for threats.*
2. *Rationale*
   1. *TS: Threats change over time so methods of protection must also.*
   2. *Example 1: cyber bullying*
   3. *R1: Shows shifting nature of harm to digital technology*
   4. *E2: terrorist organizers on social media*
   5. *R2: …*

*…*

1. *Counter Argument*
   1. *However, there should be a limit*
   2. *Protecting privacy of citizens. 4th amendment.*
   3. *Constitution couldn’t protect citizens from threats 200 years after it was written. Adaptation is needed.*