***The Crucible*: Thematic Connections to Modern Society**

**AP Language and Composition**

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* examines issues related to societal pressures such as the power of hearsay, in Salem, Massachusetts in the late seventeenth century. These issues are part of the human condition and can be equally, if not more, impactful in our current modern state. For instance, when you take social media into account, the power of hearsay has the ability to become exponentially more damaging to one’s reputation. Victor Hugo held that “whether true or false, what is said about men often has as much influence on their lives, and particularly on their destinies, as what they do” ([Les Misérables](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3208463)). To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement, paying particular attention to the way Miller develops the characters and their conflicts.