Evidence for *The Crucible* test
This chart contains only SOME examples from the film.
Please attempt to include other examples not listed here.

- **The similarities between the Salem Witch Trials and the McCarthy Hearings**
  - Both court proceedings were the result of mass fear of a common threat, witchcraft in Salem, communism in the McCarthy era.
  - Both court proceedings accepted invalid evidence, in the case of the witch-trials, spectral evidence (Ruth Putnam’s seeing a “black man” whispering in Mr. Burroughs’ ear).

- **Reasons the Puritans had for mistrusting women (non-fiction)**
  - Goody Osbourne and Sarah Good do not have men, husbands or fathers, to control them.
  - Abigail confirms the Puritan belief that women are morally weaker than men when she, like Eve, succumbs to temptation, causing the downfall of others around her.

- **Other than a belief in witchcraft, reasons that people made accusations against others in Salem (non-fiction & fiction)**
  - Abigail accuses Elizabeth out of a desire to have John for herself after Elizabeth is hung.
  - Thomas Putnam accuses George Burroughs so that he can buy Burroughs’s forfeited land.
  - Ann Putnam accuses Rebecca Nurse because she resents the fact she has lost seven of eight children while Rebecca has never lost a child or grandchild.
- Reasons that the members of the court would want to continue, even though they could see that the proceedings were corrupt (false) (fiction; from the play)
  - Abigail vanished from the town, which proved that her testimony had been false and that those she had accused were innocent. Still, Danforth continues the trials, attempting to coerce a false confession out of Proctor to justify the previous hangings and avoid accusations of having unjustly murdered the accused.

- Examples of corruption in the court (fiction; from the play)
  - Danforth’s dismissing Abigail’s accusation of Rev. Hale’s wife, while accepting her accusations against townswomen.
  - The guards being willing to accept a bribe from Abigail to allow Proctor to escape.
  - Though Danforth knows that Abigail’s accusations are false, evidenced by her conveniently timed accusation of Hale’s wife (just after he catches Abigail lurking around the Proctor’s deserted home), Danforth continues to accept the spectral evidence she displays against Mary Warren.

- Examples of hypocrisy or illogical decision making (fiction; from the play)
  - Tituba’s and Abigail’s (and others’) pretending to have been obtained by the devil in order to.
  - The court sentenced people to hang because they’d “seen the devil,” but the girls “saw the devil” in court all the time, and they were praised for helping to rid the town of sin, not condemned for witchcraft.
  - Danforth continues to accept Abigail’s conveniently timed visions of Satan even after others provide evidence of her immoral character (dancing; adultery)
  - That those who confess to witchcraft, a “hanging error,” are allowed to live while, those who maintain their innocence are hung is hypocritical.
  - Abigail accuses others of witchcraft when it is only she herself who engaged in the practice, drinking “a charm to kill Goody Proctor.”
  - Hale has extensive knowledge of demonology, but that is not held against him as it is with Tituba.