**Critical Essay Skeleton Plan**

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| **Essay Title:**  Choose a play in which there is a breakdown in family relationships. Explain the reasons for the breakdown and discuss the extent to which it is important to the play as a whole.  Introduction:  Breakdown of relationship is very important in the play. Elizabeth and Proctor.  Summary - Affair ended seven months before the play begins. Things very frosty between Proctor and Elizabeth, both trying to make things better. Proctor ashamed of himself and lives in a society where sin is not forgiven. Abigail is a secret and as a catalyst for the trials as Abigail and her friends are caught dancing in the woods making potions and casting spells. |
| **Key Point 1:**  **Proctor's reluctance to come forward early to denounce the girls crave witchcraft is influenced by his feelings for Elizabeth and Abigail.**  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  **Flowers/romance/seasoning,compliments**  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  **He does not want to shame himself for Elizabeth he's trying to put the past behind them however their relationship is further tested when he refuses to come forward despite Elizabeth pleas. Elizabeth thinks he still cares for Abigail. He has to admit on own with Abigail. Also reluctant to come forward as he is a proud man** |
| **Key Point 2:**  **Elizabeth's arrest on suspicion of witchcraft is orchestrated by Abigail in act two and finally prompts Proctor to come forward.**  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  **“either with this court or against it”**  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  **Proctor tries to get married to denounce Abigail he's still reluctant to lose his good name. He tries to discredit Abigail. Ironically, Elizabeth lies for him because she loves him so much she would not see him shamed. Proctor then denounces the court this leads to him going to gaol.** |
| **Key Point 3:**  **The reconciliation between Proctor and Elizabeth helps him to find the strength in act board to do what is right**  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  **How this relates back to the essay question:**  **Proctor has a terrible dilemma. Danforth and Paris tried to use Elizabeth to persuade Proctor to confess. Elizabeth won't tell him what to do and both admit to past faults. Being forgiven by Elizabeth allows him to forgive himself and therefore find the strength to follow his conscience.** |
| **Key Point 4:**  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  **How this relates back to the essay question:** |
| **Key Point 5:**  **The evidence to support this idea is:**  **How this relates back to the essay question:** |
| **Conclusion:**  In conclusion, the breakdown of the relationship between Elizabeth and Proctor does have an important role in the play. It is through reconciliation with Elizabeth Proctor eventually reconciles with himself and finds the strength and courage to stand up to the corrupt court and theocratic society. It is very fitting that the last words of the play “he have his goodness now” are spoken by Elizabeth as the play champions individual and individual relationships over the power of the state. |