Investigating Mass Hysteria

Now that we have finished reading *The Crucible*, you are going to have a chance to examine some other instances where mass hysteria has ruined people's lives and compare them to the tragedy in Salem. For this investigation, you will be journalists working to expose injustices caused by mass hysteria. Through accessing primary and secondary sources, you will find and compare the causes and effects of The Salem Witch Trials with those of the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII, the McCarthy Hearings, or the Robert Roberson child abuse case. When you have completed the investigation, you will see that mass hysteria is still very much alive more than 300 years after the Salem Witch Trials.

Part 1

As journalists, your task is to explore several websites on your topic and discern the causes, effects, and the role that mass hysteria played in the event. Each group (of 3 students) should choose one event (other than the Salem Witch Trials) to focus on & compare & contrast with the Salem Witch Trials. As a class, you will compare/contrast all four events as you listen to one another's presentations.

Part 2

For this part of the task, your group will create a Venn diagram that illustrates the similarities and differences between the causes and effects of The Salem Witch Trials and one other event: the Japanese-American internment, the McCarthy hearings, or the Robert Roberson case. A form will be provided for your Venn diagram or you can pull a diagram of 2 intersecting circles off the internet.

Part 3

The final part of your task is to create a Google presentation for the classroom that contains a minimum of 6 slides. Remember- you are journalists. What information is essential for you to share with your readers? The first slide will reveal your topic & have the names of each member of your group. Then your group will have at least 1 slide covering important background information for the Salem Witch Trials (cover the who, what, when, where, & why), at least 1 slide covering the other event (the Japanese-American internment, the McCarthy hearings, or the Robert Roberson case), 2 slides that focus on the parallels between the two events, and 1 slide that will serve as their works-cited page. (Groups of 3 students must have a total of 8 slides: 1 intro, 2 on the Salem Witch Trials, 2 on their chosen event, 2 focusing on the parallels, & 1 works cited slide). Make your slides interesting, adding visuals and slideshow features for the text.

***Presentations will be shared in class on Monday, Dec. 31.