## ACE Task for Sabbatical Week

## (Letter of Persuasion/Tribute to the Accused)

You are going to take a virtual tour of 17th century Salem and learn about the events leading up to the witch trials of 1692. You will begin by touring Salem Village, where you will visit the homes of the accused witches and the graves in which they were eventually buried. Toward the end of your tour you will read about the events leading up to the trials.

## The Task

As you tour Salem, you will take notes on the information you find, then use your information to write a letter or create another original piece of work about Salem and the witch trials..

## The Process: Exploring the Web, Creating a Product

* 1. Take [the tour of Salem](http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/cruc/salem/tour.htm). (You will need to use the BACK button to get back on the tour) As you visit, record your responses to the following questions:

How would you describe the area of Salem, Massachusetts in the 17th century?

* + - * Who were the accused--their genders, their occupations, their ages, their status in the community?
      * Of what were they accused?
      * In the trial, what evidence was presented?
  1. As you finish your tour, be sure you have enough responses to the questions above to complete one of the following assignments:
  2. **Letter to the governor of Salem**   
     Imagine you are a citizen of Salem, 1692. Write a letter to the governor demanding that the witch trials end. Use evidence from the web tour and your reading of *The Crucible* to support your demand. Be sure to argue against others who would like to see the trials continue. Of course, you may wish to plea for a continuance of the trials. If so, be persuasive.
  3. **A graphic tribute to the accused witches**   
     Using your knowledge about the characters in the play and what you have learned from your tour, create a tribute to the accused. The Witch Trials Memorial is an example. Create your own tribute. You may wish to create a poster, a Hyperstudio presentation or a web site.
  4. **A work of your design that reflects your knowledge of Salem and the witch trials**   
     Using your knowledge about the play and what you have learned from your tour, create a work that responds to the question: "What contributed to the events of 1692?"

## Performance Standards

The **persuasive letter to the governor** must:

* 1. structure ideas and arguments in a sustained and logical fashion
  2. use specific rhetorical devices to support assertions
  3. clarify and defend positions with precise and relevant evidence
  4. address readers' concerns, counterclaims, biases, and/or expectations

The **tribute to the witches** or **the work of your own design** must:

* 1. Show your position regarding the accused or the topic chosen.
  2. Refer to specific events and characters.
  3. Appeal to the eye.
  4. Appeal to the emotions.