

Accompanying materials
Justifying the Salem Trials - Worksheet 1

Danforth
Defence Case
notes

These notes should be used to argue that Danforth was acting in the best interests of the people of Salem. Use the following points to help make your case and remember, at that time in Salem most people believed in God, the Devil, heaven and hell.

- The Devil is real and can make people do terrible things
- It is better that a few innocent people should die than large numbers be forever burning in the fires of hell
- If they are innocent they will go to heaven to meet their maker – which is a great honour
- The girls are genuinely scared of witchcraft, it would be impossible for so many of them to maintain a pretence for such a long period of time
- There is plenty of evidence that witchcraft was being practised – e.g. dancing naked round the fire, one of the girls being unable to wake up