**MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES OF HISTORY BY HISTORIANS**

***Was the Salem Witchcraft Hysteria Caused By a Fear of Women or By an Epidemic of Encephalitis?***

Excerpted Article #2:

Carlson, L.W. (1999). *A Fever in Salem*.

Excerpted Article #1:

Karlsen, C. F. (1987). *The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England*.

Attached to this sheet, you will find a reading that advocates one historical perspective of the famous Salem Witch Trials. The readings are taken from the text, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in United States* History (Madaras & SoRelle, 2011). ***Please read the article before our first meeting at the end of September.***

Our theme this year is focused on better understanding a history of culture in the United States. Keep culture in mind as you read your assigned article. Take note of the ways in which culture explicitly and implicitly affects historical actors’ and present day people’s views and reactions to events in history.

As you read, try to identify the author’s main claims, their reasoning, and the explicit evidence used to defend the claim. Does the author attend to any counterclaims? If so, how? Make note of these items, and bring your underlined, highlighted, or annotated reading to our next meeting. We will work together in groups to break down the arguments made and discuss how argumentative reading samples can provide opportunities to help teach students how to write their own opinion/argumentative pieces.

**Argumentative Writing Terms**

**Claim:** a statement that asserts the main point of an argument

**Reasoning:**  the “because” part of an argument; the explanation for why a claim is made; links evidence to the claim in a meaningful and understandable manner

**Evidence:** support for the reasoning in an argument; the “for example” aspect of an argument; text­-based, reasonable, and reliable

**Counterclaim:** opposing/alternate viewpoint (should also be backed up with reasoning and evidence)