

Name _____ Date _____

The Scarlet Letter

Date Assigned: _____

By Nathaniel Hawthorne

Date Due: _____

Project 2 – The 20th Century Scarlet Letter – Crime and Punishment – For this project we will examine the idea of public humiliation as a punishment for offenses of less than a capital nature. This project will be done in four parts and should be compiled in a manner that will make the distinct parts distinguishable from each other. Remember turn in a hunk of junk and I will refuse to grade it.

In Texas, justices are dishing up a peculiar brand of punishment these days in guise of public humiliation verses jail time. This is drawn upon the fact that Texas has no set penalties outlined for offenses except capital ones, which leaves punishment up to the judge, and as Judge Poe put it the belief that peer pressure can do far more to rehabilitate a criminal than prison. It is because of this belief Judge Poe practices doling out public humiliation Puritan style in his 20th century courtroom. In a recent article that appeared in the Las Angeles Times, Judge Poe discuss some of his punishments, the reasoning behind them, and explores other opinions concerning public humiliation as a means of punishing criminals.

Part 1- Public Humiliation 17th Century Style – For this part you are asked to explore the types of punishments handed down during the 17th century. This can be done by going to the website at <http://www.iop.com/~grimaldi/>.

- what types of crimes were punished by public humiliation?
- What was the punishment for specific crimes
- Focus in on one, would it have been effective in your estimation? Why or why not?
- Provide a picture either from the internet or your personal estimation.

Part 2 – Article on Judge Poe – Read the article written about Judge Poe.

- give the article a title and justify your answer using quotes
- what is the theme for this piece and justify your answer with quotes
- do you agree or disagree with Judge Poe? Why or Why not?

Part 3 – Find an article in your newspaper that you believe a Puritan type punishment might be appropriate. You will be judge and jury.

- What punishment should they receive justify your answer, show the logic of your punishment
- The crime cannot be of a capital nature
- Your job is to rehabilitate and ensure the safety of the general public

Part 4 – Pretend your school board is going to adopt a resolution incorporating public student punishment for school related infractions. (Must cover at least four infractions)

- What infractions should fall under the new policy
- Describe the punishment and the logic behind it
- What are the results you hope to achieve.