

Puritanism Essay Outline

The focus of your essay is to explain how *Sinners* represents the behavior and life of the mid-1600s (we'll call these "themes"). Edwards gave his "Sinners..." sermon during the Great Awakening, a period of time of spiritual revival (aka lots of preaching going on!). Just the title alone ("Sinners in Hands of an Angry God") lets us know that the sermon is telling the listener that God (who is very angry!) will punish sinners and evildoers by sending them to hell (not a fun place).

With that in mind, take a look at the 10 "rules" in Edwards' sermon. As you read each one, write a short summary of that rule. For example, after reading rule 1, I would say that the main idea/paraphrase of that is that the wicked will always fall, and, therefore, will be punished.

After you do this, you will have a good idea of the main ideas of his sermon. Looking at that list, if you had to boil it down to three overall ideas or themes, what would they be? These three themes will be the main ideas of your three body paragraphs.

Try this **outline**:

Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Hook—Quote, facts, examples, story...something to catch your reader's attention.
- Bridge—A brief background about the time period and sermon.
- Thesis Statement—Your thesis statement needs to state what the topic of the sermon include the three "themes".

Paragraph 2: First "theme"—In this paragraph, explain the first behavior or theme of the mid-1600s that the sermon represents. Use a topic sentence, quotes from the sermon, and explanation.

Paragraph 3: Second "theme"—In this paragraph, explain the second behavior or theme of the mid-1600s that the sermon represents. Use a topic sentence, quotes from the sermon, and explanation.

Paragraph 4: Third "theme"—In this paragraph, explain the third behavior or theme of the mid-1600s that the sermon represents. Use a topic sentence, quotes from the sermon, and explanation.

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

- Restate your thesis (but try to write it differently than in the introduction).
- Significance—Explain the significance of the themes to the audience of *Sinners*.
- Final Thought—End with a powerful clincher to leave your reader thinking (a quote, a challenge, etc.).