

**THE CASE AGAINST ANNE HUTCHINSON**

**CONTEXT:** In the passage below, Judge Winthrop, the governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, confronts Anne Hutchinson at a trial. She had been holding meetings of women to discuss religious topics. He and others in the Puritan colony objected to her criticism of the clergy. Mrs. Hutchinson and John Wheelwright both objected to some of the teachings of the Puritan religion. As a result, they were both tried and banished from the colony in 1637.

*Judge Winthrop:* Mrs. Hutchinson,... you are called here as one of those that have troubled the peace of the **commonwealth** and the churches here; you are known to be a woman that hath had a great share in the promoting and **divulging** of those opinions that are causes of this trouble... [You have] spoken **divers** things... **prejudicial** to the honour of the churches and ministers. Therefore we have thought good to send for you to understand how things are, that if you be in an erroneous way we may reduce you that so you may become a profitable member here among us[.] Otherwise, if you be **obstinate** in your course that then the court may take such course that you may trouble us no further... Therefore I would entreat you to express whether you do not assent and hold in practice to those opinions and factions that have been handles in court already, that is to say, whether you do not justify Mr. Wheelwright’s sermon and the petition.”

*\*\* from “The Massachusetts Bay Colony Case against Anne Hutchinson”, 1637*

**1. Determining Meaning:** *What is the central message of the statement? What does the speaker ask of Mrs. Hutchinson?*

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**2. Analyzing:** *What does Judge Winthrop accuse Mrs. Hutchinson of? Underline in PINK (in the document excerpt above) instances in the excerpt that explicitly state his accusation.*

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**3. Evaluating Evidence:** *What type of document is this? How does this information help you understand the document?*

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**4. Determining Context: Where was this document written? When was it written?**

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**5. Inferring: What important details about the place and time this document was written help you understand the document?**

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**6. CIVICS: What democratic principle (rule or code of conduct) might have guided Anne Hutchinson's actions? What principle might have guided Judge Winthrop's actions? Explain.**

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**DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES:**

1. Consent of the governed. Democracy is based on the idea that governments are only legitimate (they only have the right to rule) if they are based on the consent of the people. People have to agree to be ruled by a government in order for it to be democratic.
2. Representative government. In a democracy, citizens have to be able to elect people to represent them in the government. That allows the people to be in overall control of the government.
3. Rule of law. This means two things. First, governments and government officials have to obey the law just like everyone else. Second, it means that governments can only punish people for disobeying laws that are actually written down. The government cannot make up rules on a whim and punish you for violating them.
4. Individual rights. In a true democracy, people have to be guaranteed certain fundamental rights. These are rights like the right to freedom of speech and religion.
5. Checks and balances. A democratic government needs to have various parts (the US has three branches and two separate houses in the legislative branch) that can stop one another from acting in bad ways. This prevents any one person or part of government from becoming dominant and dictatorial.

**What happened to Anne? After being found guilty of sedition, she, her family, and followers, were banished from the colony. They settled in what is today Rhode Island. She later moved to Long Island, where she was killed in an attack by Native Americans. She was 52.**

**DIRECTIONS:**

- 1) **Read** the context provided above the source.
- 2) **Number** each paragraph (if there is more than one).
- 3) As you read the source, **highlight** in **YELLOW** important information (main ideas, description of people or places, facts, or other evidence).
- 4) As you read the source, **circle** in **GREEN** key terms, dates, historical events, names, places, and words that signal relationship (“this led to…” or “as a result of…”). Words that are repeated for emphasis should also be circled. *If the phrase is longer than 3-4 words it should be highlighted in yellow not circled in green.*
- 5) As you read the source, **box** words in **ORANGE** with which you are unfamiliar. In the margins, **define** these words. Remember, this is an exercise in building your vocabulary. So, if you can use context clues to figure out what the word means, but can’t define it on its own, you need to box and define that word. **Words that are in bold MUST be boxed and defined! (Use a hard copy dictionary or [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com))**
- 6) **Answer** the questions provided about the source. Your responses should be written in complete, thoughtful sentences. *Be sure to explain your responses where required!*