# **Senator McCarthy and the Red Scare**

Directions: Use your American Nation text as well as internet research to respond to the questions below. For the Literal questions respond with information found from your resources. For the Critical Thinking Questions you must develop your own analysis including the consequences of events at the time.

\*\*Make sure you develop your responses. You are not limited to the space between questions.

Literal Research Questions: Respond briefly using the American Nation text and internet research.

1. What originally prompted Senator Joseph McCarthy to claim that he held in his hand the names of 205 known communists in the State Department?
2. Many Americans were sure that the Russians were not intelligent enough to build their own atomic bomb. Many Americnas felt vindicated when Klaus Fuchs, the Rosenbergs, and several others were convicted as spies. How did these events affect the Red Scare mood?
3. After the Soviets had the atomic bomb, the United States became increasingly sensitive about threats to internal security. How did this feeling pave the way for McCarthy’s Red Scare?
4. Did the Red Scare violate constitutional rights of American citizens? Explain your answer.
5. List and explain the four major pieces of anticommunist legislation of the McCarthy era.
6. To what extend were these laws effective in accomplishing their objectives. Explain your answer.
7. Explain why the American public initially had faith in McCarthy.
8. Why did the Senate hold the Army-McCarthy hearings in 1954?
9. How did the hearings lead to Senator McCarthy’s downfall?

Critical Thinking Questions: Develop your analysis in response to the questions below and the consequences of these developments on life in America.

1. What possible good resulted from the Red Scare?
2. What lessons should we learn from the McCarthy experience?
3. What if McCarthy had died during World War II?
4. Was McCarthy a patriot?
5. Were the Soviets a real or imaginary enemy in the early 1950’s?
6. In what ways were the McCarthy Hearings and the events of the Salem Witch Trials described in Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible* similar?