

## Confession Pages Answer Key

### Possible Responses

1. The speaker is afraid of the court and the consequences of not cooperating.
2. They may fear punishment, so they tell the court what it wants to hear rather than the truth.
3. The speaker hopes for forgiveness from God because they might have lied.
4. Trials pressured people to confess even without real evidence; fear controlled decisions.
5. People might accuse others or lie to protect themselves from harm.

### Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:**
  - Understanding and inferring meaning from primary source texts
  - Recognizing how fear influences testimony and justice
- **Background Mini-Lesson:**
  - Explain what a confession is and how many were made under pressure in Salem.
  - Clarify terms like "Devil," "court wishes," and "forgive."
- **Differentiation Tips:**
  - Sentence stems for support: "The speaker is afraid because..." "This shows that..."
  - Allow oral responses first for students who need language scaffolding.
  - Challenge higher-level students to identify bias or reliability issues in confessions.
- **Engagement Strategies:**
  - Role-play short, historically sensitive mock interviews to explore perspective.
  - Use think-pair-share before writing to help develop ideas.
- **Extension Ideas:**
  - Students find another short primary source excerpt and identify fears shown within it.
  - Compare a confession to a modern-day legal right (e.g., protection against forced confession).