

Pardon Perspective Answer Key

- **Your Claim:** The accused should have been pardoned earlier because many were innocent and evidence was unreliable.
- **Evidence:**
 - Spectral evidence was used unfairly, leading to wrongful convictions.
 - Some leaders (like Governor Phips) eventually recognized mistakes and stopped the court.
- **Opposing Viewpoint:** People feared witches and believed waiting kept the community safe.
- **Response:** Fear should not replace justice, and innocent lives were harmed by delaying pardons.
- **Connection to Justice:** Delayed pardons allow unfair punishment to continue, showing a system that protects fear more than fairness.

Teacher's Guide

- **Preparation Tips:**
 - Review the end of the trials and the actual pardons issued in the years afterward.
 - Discuss why communities might resist admitting wrongdoing.
- **Differentiation Strategies:**
 - Provide a short fact sheet summarizing key events for students who need support.
 - Allow advanced students to reference specific figures or documents in their arguments.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Structured classroom debate: assign "Early Pardon" and "Trust the Court" sides.
 - Students nominate the strongest evidence shared during the debate.
- **Extension Options:**
 - Connect to modern examples of wrongful convictions and pardons.
 - Students write a follow-up reflection: "What should leaders do when they realize a mistake?"