

Kevin Williams Williams 1  
Mr. Davidson  
English 11  
30 November 2011

1-inch top margin  
half-inch header margin  
Times New Roman, 12 pt. Font  
1-inch side margin  
Double-space, but  
DO NOT SKIP  
LINES.

half-inch indent From Boston to Jonestown: Man's Struggle with Omnipotence

I was a nine-year-old boy in 1978 but I still remember seeing my mother cry as she listened to the news about the nine hundred lives lost in Jonestown, Guyana. I later came to understand that Jim Jones, a preacher, had promised his followers a perfect world. When they moved from southern California to the new development he named after himself, he convinced all but a few to drink Kool-Aid laced with cyanide. Many of the dead were children. These people had followed a dream, a dream that a man could create Heaven on Earth. Jim Jones is but one example of a man believing that he speaks for God and in so doing, took on a power that no man can handle. The Puritans in early America tried desperately to bring God's law to mankind, but in his novel *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne warns us of the dangers of theocracy by showing mankind's inability to achieve and maintain purity.

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This is my hook. I wrote it in the first-person because the personal nature of it is more likely to connect with the reader. The very idea of 900 deaths is likely to make the reader want to continue.

I'm now preparing my reader for the thesis statement by establishing the connection between Jonestown (my hook) and *The Scarlet Letter*.

This is my thesis. I am going to prove this assertion in the body of the paper by giving examples from the novel of man's inability to achieve and maintain purity.