

## ***Frankenstein***

### Precision Essay One

This is a precision essay. It should be at least one full page, double-spaced, but no more than 1 ½ pages. Include a cover page.

While you have been reading criticism on the text, you are not to use any of the criticism within your essay. Your essay should evolve from your own ideas as a reader (though these ideas may be influenced by what you have read). Again, you are NOT to include evidence from the criticism. I am interested in seeing how well you are able to form a *hypothesis* about the text and prove, through a logical sequence of evidence and explanation, how you know this thesis to be true.

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You are now familiar with several stories describing the creation of mankind: Genesis, Milton's version of Genesis, Prometheus's creation of man, and others from your study of mythology throughout high school.

When you consider these stories, what does Shelly's description of the creation of the creature illustrate about the condition of mankind?

Develop a thesis in which you specifically address the creatures "first awakening" and connect this event to the thematic structure of the text as a whole.

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#### **Guidelines:**

- Provide a precise thesis that includes subject (the literary element or device you will address) and direction (the thematic idea, or meaning, associated with your subject). Your thesis should demonstrate clarity of thought that takes into account the ways in which Shelley creates meaning.
- Your hook should address the direction of your essay. Your introduction, on the whole, should be brief and succinct. Introductions are not meant to be self-conscious or, conversely, haughty.
- Each paragraph should have clear subject and direction. Evidence from the text should be incorporated within the structure of your own language. Don't start a sentence with a quote or have a quote stand alone – all exposed and cold, lonely and frightened – in a sentence. As with any evidence, you must explain its relevance. Nothing is EVER clear – so please don't say, "This quote clearly shows," or anything remotely sounding like this.
- Think of yourself as the teacher. Your essay is your opportunity to explain an aspect of the text that you think is most significant to someone who cannot understand it. Be slow, deliberate, and mindful of your reader.
- For the love of all things sacred, proofread!