

***Frankenstein* Open Essay Potential Topics**

Directions: You will compose an in-class timed essay (40 minutes) about *Frankenstein* in response to one of the topics below, which will not be announced until you enter class on the day of the assessment. Preparing a central idea and supporting evidence for each prompt in advance would be in your best interest.

1. The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Choose a novel or play and write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

2. It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

3. In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. Select a novel, play, or epic poem in which acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Then, write a well-developed essay examining how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim. Do not merely summarize the plot.

4. In retrospect, the reader often discovers that the first chapter, scene, or part of a literary work introduces some of the major themes of the work. Write an essay about the beginning of a text in which you explain how it functions to set forth major themes.

Frankenstein Open Essay Outline

Essential Words/Phrases of the Prompt	Explanation of key words (What is your task?)
Theme Statement: (should relate to the essential words/phrases)	

Introduction

1. Theme:
2. Plot Summary (including author and title):
3. Thesis Statement: (should include the essential words/phrases)

Body Paragraph #1

Topic Sentence: (should be a specific claim, not a retelling of the plot)

Specific Details/Scenes from the text	Explanation/Support of Topic Sentence

Body Paragraph #2

Topic Sentence: (should be a specific claim, not a retelling of the plot; should start with a transition word)

Specific Details/Scenes from the text	Explanation/Support of Topic Sentence

Conclusion: (Relate the details back to the theme; 1-2 Sentences)