English 9
Paper topics: *Frankenstein*
Paper should be 3-4 pages in length

Academic paper topics
1. Monstrosity. What comprises monstrosity? To what degree is Victor a monster? To what degree is the monster a monster? Define your terms and support your ideas.

2. Relationship to the myth of Prometheus. Prometheus steals fire and gives it to humans—he's then punished by the gods. How is Frankenstein the Modern Prometheus, as the book's subtitle indicates?

3. Role of setting (geographical location). Map the settings of the novel. Draw inferences from the places and directions of the novel about the meaning of the setting in relation to themes of isolation and the downfall of Victor.

4. Tragedy. To what degree is Victor an Aristotelian tragic hero? Consider his hamartia, peripeteia, and anagnorisis.

5. Theme of technology. Frequently, we fear the power of technology; we make it, but it shapes the way we live. What does *Frankenstein* say about the Industrial Revolution, the theme of human overreaching, and/or our modern society.

6. Importance of nature. What is the relationship of nature to characterization and/or theme? How does nature reflect/influence emotion?

7. Role of narration. How does the novel function as an epistolary piece? What does the layer of Walton's writing the story to his sister add to the overall effect of the novel?

Creative project
The year is 1816. You are at Lake Geneva with Percy Shelley, Mary Shelley, and Lord Byron. You decide to have a contest to write ghost stories, based on some German folktales you have been reading. Write a Romantic story in the Gothic style, in language inspired by that of *Frankenstein*, a story that speaks to the tenets on our Romanticism handout. The story should have both narration and dialogue, and should be 4–5 pages in length, featuring a beginning, a middle, and an end. Include a paragraph-long artist's statement with your story to help the reader understand what you have attempted to do in relation to the tenets of Romanticism. Stories should be set earlier than 1816.