

English 9

Paper topics: *Frankenstein*

Finished paper should be 3-4 pages in length

Deadlines are incremental, as we will be working on this project over the next week in class

Tuesday 20 March: Begin workdays for paper

Wednesday 21 March: Thesis due

Thursday 22 March: Intro due

Friday 23 March: One body paragraph due; "Unlucky 13" common errors

Monday 26 March: Second body paragraph due

Tuesday 27 March: Third body paragraph due

Wednesday 28 March: Final paper due; upload to Jupiter on the assignment created for this purpose; late work will not be accepted for this assignment

Topics listed on this sheet are fairly general so that you can be inspired by the ideas but develop your own ideas with specificity and checking in as appropriate.

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?
8. "Frost at Midnight." Frankenstein and "Frost at Midnight" are both Romantic works, but their tones and themes are related but very different. Compare and contrast the two Romantic works to learn more about the versatility of Romanticism with regard to the two texts. A thesis for this paper might be constructed around a template such as: While Frankenstein uses nature to emphasize _____, "Frost at Midnight" uses nature to promote _____. You might use one idea, as I do here, or you may use more than one Romantic idea, such as the treatment of childhood, the common man, nature, the role of emotion, the use of the first-person narrator/speaker, etc.