British Literature

*Frankenstein* Synthesis Essay

Based upon your reading and thematic study of *Frankenstein* you will write an essay that synthesizes your established theme of the novel with additional sources.

The main purpose of a synthesis essay is to make insightful connections. For this paper the connection will be from the novel through an additional artistic source to a modern exemplification. It is not a summary. It is an opportunity to create new knowledge out of these connections.

Follow the following steps:

1. Pick a thematic concern.
2. Make a theme statement. Remember this is a universal statement and is the backbone of your paper.
3. Select and review sources. You will use the novel *Frankenstein,* a movie or two short stories or two poems, and an article that addresses the theme.
4. Write the essay. Use the guidelines established below.

Introduction:

* Introductory sentence that acts as a hook, capturing the reader’s interest
* Identification of the thematic concern (general subject you will be addressing – like ambition)
* Identification of the sources
* Your thesis/theme statement (the specific thing you will be addressing; the specific commentary Shelley is making about the subject. This is expressed in a universal statement (what about ambition?)

Body Paragraphs (repeat this pattern for each body paragraph):

* Topic sentence that gives one reason to support your thesis (the cost of ambition is a loss of connection to family and friends)
* Your explanation and opinion of the topic sentence
* Specific support (quotes with page #s) imbedded from your sources (all of them) that back up the claim you just made
* Explanation of the significance of the sources being sure to link it to the topic sentence and that aspect of the theme

Conclusion

* State further significance of your topic from the evidence and reasons you discussed in the essay
* A profound thought or thoughtful ending for your paper

General essay reminders:

* Write in 3rd person (no need for 1st person pronouns)
* Use transitions within and between paragraphs to make the text flow logically
* Use specific quotes appropriately cited (page number in parentheses) and smoothly imbedded (introduce the context of the quote, write the quote, explain its significance)
* Include a works cited page using MLA or APA style (landmark citation machine can help; have your parenthetical citations within the paper match your selected style)
* An academic paper requires appropriate tone and diction choices. It is formal, not informal
* Essays must be submitted to turnitin.com (register for the class **enrollment id 6986672**, **password English**; register immediately so you don’t run in to problems later. If you had me first semester and registered you are already in the class) **Due Date: May 8, 2014 at 11 p.m.** No late papers will be accepted. No papers accepted unless submitted to turnitin.com

Things to always remember:

* Plagiarism will result in a 0
* Failure to specifically quote with appropriate page numbers will result in an F
* Don’t procrastinate, excellent writing requires rewriting and revision
* Proofread carefully (read your paper aloud to catch errors, ask someone else to proofread too)

Thematic concerns to consider (there are other options too):

* Life, consciousness, existence
* Science, exploration
* Appearances
* Revenge
* Family
* Language and communication
* Ambition
* Compassion and forgiveness
* Sacrifice
* Lies and deceit/secrecy
* Fate and free will/slavery

