

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition
Summer Assignment

Your completion of this assignment will indicate your preparedness to take on the district's challenging college-level literary analysis and writing course. Reading and writing intensive, the A.P. class focuses on explication, critical analysis, and rhetorical argumentation.

Required Texts:

“The Myth of Prometheus” (any version)

Frankenstein or Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley
(you will see it under both titles)

As of May 1, this was available as an e-text at

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/SheFran.html>

A recommended version is the Norton Critical Edition, which includes explanation, analysis, and criticism.

Also: How to Read Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines by Thomas C. Foster

1. Be prepared when you return to school in September to discuss ideas in How to Read Like a Professor and how they are reflected in the Shelley work. The Foster text will give you a foundation for the deep analysis and explication that we will focus on and develop throughout the year.

2. After having read Frankenstein, find a document from a reputable source – print or online, but reputable - that focuses on one of the many issues reflected in Shelley's text. Please see attached essay options for guidelines to topics. A clear thesis with adequate support from the novel and the historical document will ensure a coherent and persuasive argument.

You must attach a copy of your resource to your essay. A printout or xerox of the source must include publishing information: author, title, date of publication, publisher, date of access to online source, etc. If you use the Norton edition, follow the M.L.A. format you have used in your previous high school papers.

An excellent source for documentation is
OWL at Purdue University – the school's online writing lab.

The following are the options you have for your response. Any discussion should be approximately three-pages in length with copious references to the novel and the resource. Choose only one.

Option 1

Shelley's Frankenstein has often been interpreted, rightly or wrongly, as an indictment of the developing sciences in the early 19th century and continues to be held up as a caveat to humans who would aspire to have powers reserved for the gods, or interfere with the "natural order."

Obtain an article from a reputable source – this will most likely be a non-literary source and more likely a scientific, agricultural, biomedical, or environmental resource - that discusses the ethical and moral considerations of one of the following, or an equivalent idea. You will be discussing the article in terms of Shelley's novel.

Cloning

Stem cell research

Genetically modified foods

Long-term issues of motherless/fatherless children

Cross-species organ donation/harvesting

Option 2

Find criticism contemporary with the publication of the novel and either argue or offer support the critic's views by making references to the Shelley text as well as your interpretation of it. Take a clear position on this option.

Option 3

Using a historical document discuss the novel's connections to alchemy, the pseudo-science of reanimation or galvanism, or another nascent science of the early 19th century.

You can narrow this down to one area if that engenders a deeper and therefore more convincing thesis.

Option 4

May be helpful for those of you also taking A.P. Psychology

Investigate Lawrence Kohlberg's stages of moral development and discuss them in terms of the monster.

All work is due the first day of school for students, whether a full day or abbreviated day.