

Frankenstein Essay topics

Your essay must be written according to MLA format and must contain a clear introduction, main body, and conclusion. The essay is a combination of your original words and quotations from the text, and should be about two to three pages. This figure does not include the works cited page, which must accompany the final product. Choose **one** of the following prompts.

- A.** Some works of literature serve to convey the author's attitudes about scientific issues or moral attitudes of their times. Discuss which issues are being addressed in *Frankenstein* and how Shelley conveys her attitude toward these issues.
- B.** Occasionally, an author chooses to use two different characters to relate the same story in order to provoke thought by presenting contrasting views of the same event. Examine *Frankenstein*. Does Shelley use this technique successfully? If so, how? If not, why? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
- C.** It has been said that intelligence and/or knowledge can be both a curse and a blessing. In a well-organized essay, defend, challenge, or qualify the validity of this statement. Use evidence from your reading, observation, and/or experience to support your position.
- D.** Trace the similarities between Victor and the monster. Consider their respective relationships with nature, desires for family, and any other important parallels you find. Do Victor and the monster become more similar as the novel goes on? How does their relationship with each other develop?
- E.** Victor attributes his tragic fate to his relentless search for knowledge. Do you think that this is the true cause of his suffering? In what ways does the novel present knowledge as dangerous and destructive? How does this concept figure into Shelley's own views of society?
- F.** Who is the monster here, Victor Frankenstein or his creation? Why does the creature become a monster? Does Frankenstein redeem himself?
- G.** Some scholars have used *Frankenstein* as a central piece in their argument against the development of cloning technology. Others argue that the problem was not with Victor Frankenstein's scientific methods but with his responses to his creation—that we should develop cloning technology, but use it wisely. Debate whether the novel is either "for" or "against" cloning. Support your argument with passages from the book.
- H.** Mary Shelley has Victor Frankenstein create a living being, who then becomes a murderer. Who or what is responsible for the wretch's behavior? Is Shelley casting blame on a society that refuses to accept the wretch? Does she hold Victor responsible for his negligence as a "parent" (both father and mother) or is the wretch himself responsible for the chaos he creates?