

Honors British Literature
Mr. Lister

Essay Questions: *Frankenstein* and *Pride and Prejudice*

Choose one of the essay questions below and compose a three to five page essay that examines the question and the chosen text in detail. The essay should be both argumentative and analytical—it should not be a report, nor should it be a compare and contrast essay. If you would prefer to devise your own essay question, then propose it in writing and get my approval, by Friday, October 19. The essay should follow MLA guidelines for both documentation and formatting and it will be due Friday, October 26, by the end of the day. Late papers will be charged 1/3 of a grade per calendar day late.

A note on paper extensions: If the deadlines in this assignment cause you undue hardship, then please speak to me about it either before or after school.

A note on length: You all are moving beyond the artificial constraints of the three and five paragraph essay. By imposing a length requirement instead of a paragraph requirement, I am attempting to get you to think beyond your comfort level. I am looking for a depth of argumentation that cannot be achieved in a shorter paper and I will not accept essays that are not at least three full pages long when properly formatted.

Pride and Prejudice:

1. Choose one repeating piece of material culture (or culture proper) in the text and examine its ideological importance in the text. This is not a report like our web searches; rather, it is an opportunity to examine the import of these props. Look at the language, the internal discussion of these “things,” do not write a research paper.
2. Having read the whole of the text, make an argument for a new family model based on the resolution of the plot. Consider how the deficiencies of families are displayed and then see how the novel solves (or doesn't solve) these issues. Does the marriage economy survive the novel?
3. How are “pride” and “prejudice” discussed in the text? Do their definitions undergo a transformation as we experience these characters' story, or does this book re-emphasize the status quo?
4. Does Elizabeth Bennet “sell out”? Does she sacrifice her integrity for the grandeur of Pemberly? Or, rather, does her marriage at the end of the novel create a new category of conduct for marriageable young women?