AP English Literature and Composition
Unit 1: Monstrosity and Magnanimity
Free-Response Question 3 potential prompts for *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus*

Directions: You will compose an in-class timed essay (40 minutes) about *Frankenstein* in response to one of the topics below, which will not be announced until you enter class on the day of the assessment. Preparing a central idea and supporting evidence for each prompt in advance would be in your best interest (and, you will earn bonus points on your essay for independently completing outlines for each prompt before the assessment).

1. In retrospect, the reader often discovers that the first chapter, scene, or part of a literary work introduces some of the major themes of the work. Write an essay about the beginning of a text in which you explain how it functions to set forth major themes.

2. In some works of literature, childhood and adolescence are portrayed as times graced by innocence and a sense of wonder; in other works, they are depicted as times of tribulation and terror. Focusing on a single novel or play, explain how its representation of childhood or adolescence shapes the meaning of the work as a whole.

3. Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. Select a novel or play that includes such acts of betrayal. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

4. The meaning of some literary works is often enhanced by sustained allusion to myths, the Bible, or other works of literature. Select a literary work that makes use of such a sustained reference. Then write a well-organized essay in which you explain the allusion that predominates in the work and analyze how it enhances the work's meaning.

For each topic, rewrite the prompt as a series of questions, delineating each task you need to accomplish in your essay.

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