Your first paper should be a comparative analysis of *Frankenstein* and at least one short story we read together as a class. In order to develop a strong thesis, ask yourself about the significance of the comparison you are making. For example, what can we learn from the comparison, and why is it valuable or worth making? See your lit. book Chapters 2-7 including especially pages 26-51 (at the very least read pages 26-34 which are extremely helpful for formulating a strong thesis and for writing introductions and conclusions), the sample student essays beginning on page 43-51, and pages 49-108 for direction. In any case, your thesis should be stronger than “X and Y are alike in these aspects but vary in others.” Include in your thesis the value or point of the comparison. Your essay will be stronger if you focus on *Frankenstein* and just one other work, but you may go beyond that and discuss up to two short stories along with the novel. Just know that doing so will result in your needing to do more research and writing a longer paper.

Here are several prompts to get you started (you may come up with your own as long as it fulfills the assignment):

- Compare *Frankenstein* to Hawthorne’s “The Birthmark” in light of the individual vs. society (Victor or the monster and Aylmer) or the destructive power of unrestrained genius/the detrimental impact of man trying to usurp the role of God (Victor and Alymer). You might also consider comparing the treatment or plight of women (Georgiana and Elizabeth) at the hands of men who allegedly love them, or you could even compare the two works on the basis of appearance vs. reality or the detrimental impact of being judged by appearance.

- Compare *Frankenstein* to “The Cask of Amontillado” on the basis of the destructive power of revenge in these two works (Montresor and Victor or Montresor and the monster). You could also compare the two works in terms of the madness depicted by individuals in both works (Victor and Montresor), in which case you could also bring in the “madness” of the Misfit from “A Good Man Is Hard to Find.” You could also compare the motivations and the outcomes of the actions of Victor and the grandmother from the latter story.

- Compare *Frankenstein* to “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” in light of human tendencies to judge that which they do not understand and/or the role of the outcast in society.

- Compare *Frankenstein* to any short story we studied on the basis of the theme of the pain of isolation and the necessity for individuals to feel connected to someone or the need for love.

The paper should be typed using MLA format and should contain a minimum of 1,600 words and a maximum of 2,000. In your analysis, you should include the following items:

- quotations from each work that your essay discusses,
- at least two quotations from two different external works of literary criticism for each story you discuss* (so that's at least four quotations from four external sources which must be approved by your instructor as scholarly sources; if you have a source containing articles or essays by different literary critics, each essay used counts as a separate source – treat as “works in an anthology” for your Works Cited page – see me if you need help),
- and a Work's Cited page. (Don’t forget to include the works your essay discusses and to quote from the literary works themselves!)

*Depending upon the authors you select, in some cases literary criticism about a particular short story may be almost non-existent. In those cases, you may broaden your search to include literary criticism pertaining to the author's works in general (you will have to establish the link to the particular story you are discussing) or you may include biographical research if you are able to tie it effectively to your analysis (For example, how does the background of the author you're discussing impact the particular work you are analyzing?)

Also your analysis should focus on at least two (possibly three, but not more than four) of the following aspects of the work: writer's tone, style, and use of language; plot; character; setting; point of
view; theme (most likely you will want to include this one!); or use of symbolism and/or allegory. Additionally, your essay will be more balanced if you analyze both works from the same critical perspective (i.e. look at both works from a feminist, psychoanalytic, or New Historicist point of view, etc.).

**Essay due date:** Essay is due Wednesday, October 24, 2018.

**Please do not use a cover sheet with your essay and do not turn in your essay in any kind of folder.** Just use standard MLA format without a cover sheet.

You will notice on some of the sample papers in our text that the student paper contains no Works Cited page. Your paper SHOULD have a Works Cited page, and you should pay special attention the following which shows you how to format a single work in an anthology or two or more works from the same anthology. MLA format has changed this year, so you will need to rely on the newest information in the 8th edition of the *MLA Handbook* (which is available in the WRC and possibly online). Our textbook is somewhat outdated on its Works Cited information. If you are not using a short story I gave you as a handout and are using two works from the same anthology, then on your Works Cited page, your entries will look something like this:


You will, of course, organize your Works Cited page alphabetically, with authors’ last names first, and using the first significant word of the title in cases where the author’s name is unknown.

You may consult and cite more sources if you wish, but please keep in mind that no more than 25-30% of your paper should be quoted, paraphrased, or summarized material. That includes your quotations from the works themselves! Therefore, if you discover more information that you wish to include in some way, you may do so in an additional page or two of notes, not counted as part of your total number of words.

When including quotations, be sure to introduce them eloquently into the body of the paper – no dropped or “dumped” quotations please. Include the name and the credentials of the critic you are citing (what makes him or her an authority or an expert?). Smoothly integrating your quotations into the text makes your essay flow much better (and readers gain the advantage of knowing your source’s credentials up front instead of having to flip back to your Works Cited page). See p. 106 for “integrating borrowed material” or “integrating quotations into the text,” but realize that your book doesn't give examples that include the critics' credentials – we'll discuss this in class.

Finally, refrain from using “I” in this paper. Readers are entitled to assume that what you write is what you think unless you are quoting someone else. So don't use “I” (or worse, “you”) in your essay.

**Here is your assignment in summary form:** Your first paper should be a comparative analysis of *Frankenstein* and any short story we read together as a class. Remember to include at least in your conclusion an assessment of the value or significance of your comparison. Why does it matter that these stories share certain similarities and have marked differences? What can one learn from such a comparison about the human condition?
Quick Reference List of Requirements Previously Mentioned

1. Length: 1,600-2,000 words which translates into approximately 5 to 7 pages – not counting your Works Cited page.
2. Format: MLA Style.
3. A minimum of 4 citations of literary criticism in the body of the essay. These must include two sources of literary criticism per story discussed (for a total of 4 quotations from literary criticism).
4. Quotations (as well as paraphrases and summaries) from the works themselves as evidence for your claims.
5. A proper Works Cited page.

NO PAPER WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE TURNITIN.COM ORIGINALITY REPORT, A WORKS CITED PAGE, PHOTOCOPIES AND/OR PRINTOUTS OF ARTICLES/Essays/BOOKS CONSULTED, AND A CLEAN FINAL COPY OF YOUR ESSAY.

Additional Requirements (i.e. what else you’ll need to hand in):

6. A Turnitin.com Originality Report
7. For all additional outside sources, include copies of those articles (if you used a book, photocopy the pertinent section/pages and attach those – if it’s 5 pages or fewer, print out the whole article; if it’s more than 5 pages, just print out or photocopy the page or pertinent pages surrounding what you quote). A good rule of thumb is to include at a minimum the paragraph from which you quoted (or summarized or paraphrased) and the paragraph just before and just after the one you used. Be sure to include those sources on your Works Cited page!

Hand in your work in this order (just staple or use a binder clip - don’t use a folder)

1. The final copy of your essay that you want me to read and grade (stapled as a unit)
2. The Works Cited page which should have the correct page number (stapled to/included with the essay).
3. Your TurnItIn.Com Originality Report (stapled as a unit)
4. Photocopies of outside articles, pertinent book pages, etc. It doesn’t matter if you’ve highlighted it or annotated it.
5. *Optional – any teacher conference or tutoring appointment verifications.

Other deadlines for this paper:

Three sample thesis statements and sample works cited page -- citing two sources of literary criticism for *Frankenstein* and two sources of literary criticism for the other work(s) your essay discusses -- are due in class on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.