SAMPLE INTRO AND CONCLUSION FROM A PAPER THAT RECEIVED A **98**:

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AP Literature & Composition, 6th period

Ms. Bailey

The Injustice of Gender Roles: The True Horror Story in *Frankenstein*

Amid intricate tales of death and vengeance and themes alluding to the Greek Titan, Prometheus—within the heart of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*—lies a critical commentary on early 19th century gender roles. Gender roles during this time were an aspect of life rife with inequality. Women were often confined by the oppressive chokehold of disparaging societal expectations and pressures, and were thus limited in influence and independence beyond the domestic sphere. Men, on the other hand, were generally expected to be superior creatures capable of everything that women were not. In *Frankenstein*, Shelley derides this imbalance in gender treatments through her portrayal of female characters; the thoughts, actions, and failures of the supposedly dominant male character, Victor; and through her allegorical depiction of the creature.

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Conclusion:

Through her depiction of mistreated, underappreciated, and objectified female characters, the faults of male characters represented by Victor, and her portrayal of the creature as an indication of society’s blemishes, Mary Shelley animates a condemning commentary on 19th century gender roles. Shelley uncovers groundbreaking insights regarding the treatment of women and the imbalances among the gender roles based on expectations of her time period. Her scrutiny of gender roles in the novel is encased within a story that includes a grotesque reanimation of a dead body, an oppressed woman’s rebellion against gender and religious norms, and an outcast’s feckless war against social boundaries. Amid these atrocities in *Frankenstein*, however, lies the greatest horror story of all: the plight of 19th century women struggling to stay afloat in a sea of inequity.