TAKE-HOME ESSAY ON SATIRICAL NOVEL: REQUIREMENTS

The following prompt is taken from a released AP exam (the open-ended essay, Question 3):

**Some novels and plays advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Choose such a novel or play and note the particular attitudes or traditions that the author wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader’s or audience’s views. Avoid plot summary.**

Write an essay based on this prompt. Although you will NOT need to use direct quotes on the AP exam, I would like you to incorporate at least 10 embedded quotes in your paper, since you are able to access the source material to defend your points. Remember to cite page numbers in MLA format. While I want this to be an academic and formal essay, since it is untimed, you have some room to get creative with your voice and style (within more structured and organized paragraphs). You have a LOT of room to get creative with the way you approach this topic and organize your essay.

Your final draft should be typed, 12 pt. font (Times New Roman, to keep things consistent), double-spaced, with one-inch margins. This will include a longer intro and conclusion, as well as more than three body paragraphs. It should end up being 3-5 pages. (3 pages meaning a FULL third page, not one line onto the 3rd page, you heathens.)

Since you haven’t done a take-home essay in quite some time, I WILL be giving you some class time to work on it, and this class time can also function as tutorials: you can ask me for help whenever you need it. However, this will probably not be enough time to finish the whole paper, so you’ll have to manage your time at home, as well, in order to complete it by the deadline.

DUE: MONDAY, 11/6, TO ITSLEARNING BY 11:59 PM. HARD COPY DUE ON WEDNESDAY, 11/8. (No hard copy: -10 points; No rubric: -5 points) This gives you two full weeks.

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| **Criteria** | **A**  **(20-18)** | **B**  **(17-16)** | **C**  **(15)** | **D**  **(14)** | **F**  **(13-0)** |
| **Organization**  The essay is organized with a strong introduction  that includes a clear thesis statement, well-developed body, and clear conclusion. There is a logical progression of points, and transitions are used between paragraphs and between ideas. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Focus**  The essay is on topic and consistently holds the  reader's attention with well-chosen examples and  support. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Development**  The essay is supported with specific and relevant evidence. Ideas are original and reflect an understanding of the topic. There is sufficient support for each idea, including at least 10 correctly cited and embedded (MLA) quotations. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sentence Fluency and Word Choice**  Essay expresses ideas with effective syntax and word variety, demonstrates accurate use of language in a clear and lively manner. It incorporates appropriate and precise word choice. Audience awareness is evident, and phrasing is not awkward. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Form and Conventions**  The essay is typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. 3 to 5 pages long. Page numbers and title are included.  The essay has minimal errors in spelling, capitalization,  punctuation, and grammar usage. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |  |  |  |

\*\*I’ll give you a separate sheet with the rubric to turn in with your essay.

**Guiding Ideas for Intro & Thesis**

Need to consider both the zoom in and the zoom out:

\*Intro statement should be several sentences that focus on the complexities surrounding how the author deals with what was demonstrated in the prompt. You should still open with a thematic statement that grabs the reader’s attention. Look at your sample intro below to see how Dennis develops his point on gender roles in *Frankenstein*.

\*Note Dennis’ thesis statement, which is based on topics and not specific devices: this is the way you should be tackling the open-ended response, as you’re dealing with an entire novel, not just a passage.

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

Dennis Cheng

11/17/12

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.

CITATIONS:

Just need in-text (in parentheses either directly after each quote or at the end of the sentence in which the quote is used).

Play: (Act#.scene#.line#s) 🡪 (III.iii.1-5)

Novel: (Pg#) 🡪 (502)

(Only need author name with page number if you’re citing multiple authors. For example, if you brought in literary criticism, which you will do next semester, you would cite the novel as (Steinbeck 502), but you don’t need to do that here.)