**Instructions:** Pick ONE of the essay prompts below and write an essay of a minimum of 800 words in response; 800 words is the equivalent of two and a half or three typed pages.

**Format**: MLA format (double spaced, one inch margins, Times New Roman font, including an original title and a header that provides your name, instructor name, class title, and due date)

**Essay Prompts**:

1. Who is the monster/villain in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*? Are both Victor and the creature monsters? Is the creature free from blame? Be sure to use textual evidence to support your argument.
2. What makes a gothic villain? Define this key gothic figure using textual evidence from both Horace Walpole’s Castle of Otranto and Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein to support your definition.
3. As we’ve discussed in class, gothic novels express the anxieties felt in the culture which they emerge. Pick one of the concerns represented in the text and explain what the text is saying about that issue. Be sure to use textual evidence to support your argument.

**Things to keep in mind:** When giving textual evidence to support your answer, you should either quote or paraphrase and summarize the specific moment in the novel. But **be very careful** not to summarize the whole story. You should only summarize the small focused moment that you need and then quickly move to your explanation of the moment’s significance and your analysis. Make sure to carefully and fully explain you evidence. Before you begin writing, be sure you take a significant amount of time to develop a thesis statement and plan your response.

Checklist:

* Do you have a title that gives a clear indication of what you are discussing?
* Did you include a thesis that presents your point of view?
* Is the body of the essay typed, double-spaced and in a Times New Roman 12 point?
* Are your pages numbered?
* Did you avoid summarizing the whole text and instead use textual evidence in the form of quotations and paraphrase?
* Did you explain and analyze your evidence?
* Are your citations presented in MLA style?
* Did you staple your paper together?
* Did you use spell check?

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| Quote/paraphrase a moment in the text | What does this moment show/prove that is useful for your question? | Why and how does this moment prove what you say it does? |
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1. Review your chart and free write about the following questions. What do these moments have in common? What do your ideas about these moments have in common? How do they help you answer the question you have chosen?
2. Answer the question you chose in one or two sentences. This is your thesis.

Thesis Checklist (From the UNC-Chapel Hill Writing Center):

* **Do I answer the question?** Re-reading the question prompt after constructing a working thesis can help you fix an argument that misses the focus of the question.
* **Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?** If your thesis simply states facts that no one would, or even could, disagree with, it’s possible that you are simply providing a summary, rather than making an argument.
* **Is my thesis statement specific enough?** Thesis statements that are too vague often do not have a strong argument. If your thesis contains words like “good” or “successful,” see if you could be more specific: *why* is something “good”; *what specifically* makes something “successful”?
* **Does my essay support my thesis specifically and without wandering?** If your thesis and the body of your essay do not seem to go together, one of them has to change. It’s okay to change your working thesis to reflect things you have figured out in the course of writing your paper. Remember, always reassess and revise your writing as necessary.
* **Does my thesis pass the “how and why?” test?** If a reader’s first response is “how?” or “why?” your thesis may be too open-ended and lack guidance for the reader. See what you can add to give the reader a better take on your position right from the beginning.