**College English 12 – *Frankenstein* Note taking/Close Reading**

As we read *Frankenstein* this semester, it will be **KEY that you take notes along the way**. You and your partner have selected one of three themes we will be studying in the novel. You are responsible for three projects related to this theme (specific requirements are on another handout):Modern Day Connection presentation, Leaders for Class Discussion, literary analysis essay.

IN ORDER TO DO WELL, **you MUST take close reading notes** about your theme in Frankenstein. You have 10 note taking sheets, one for each assigned section of our reading. I have extra sheets if you need more. During the reading of each chunk of the novel, you should read closely for understanding, but also for analysis of your theme. **Use the notetaking sheet as a place to write down your ideas: *what happened, how does it relate to my theme, why is it significant, why did the author include it, how does it connect to earlier or later events in the novel, what does it say about the characters, what message is the author sending, how does it connect to the real world,* *what don’t I understand*,**ETC?

Here are some other questions specific to each theme to help you in **YOUR THINKING** (yep, yours and not sparknotes)!

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| **The Consequences of Irresponsibility** | **The Consequences of Alienation/Isolation** | **The Danger of Knowledge** |
| How can one tell responsibility from irresponsibility?Who is the judge?What are the effects of irresponsibility?Who pays for it?Can one be redeemed after irresponsible behavior? | How does isolation affect people?What causes it? When is it deserved?Who is responsible for alienating others?Is isolation a good option? When? under what circumstances? Do humans really need other people?  | When is knowledge a liability?How do we know knowledge is being used “for good?”Is it possible to know too much?Is ignorance bliss?When is the pursuit of knowledge too much? |

Another important aspect of note taking is composing authentic questions. An authentic question is one you DON’T know the answer to, but need to in order to make meaning or analyze. You should begin developing your own skills at wording questions about what you don’t know. Include them on your note taking sheet. They can sometimes be more valuable than writing down what you DO know.

Other elements to notice in your reading…and take note of and discuss when you lead class discussion.

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| **Contrasts & Contradictions**When a character’s actions or thoughts contradict previous patterns or contrast with what the reader expects, suggesting a change or offering new insight into the character | **Motivations**When we see the reasons for character’s thinking or behavior or his attitudes towards others. What does the character want or what does he hope to gain through the behavior or thought? | **Aha Moments**Moments when a character’s insight or understanding helps us understand the plot’s movement, the development of the character, or the conflicts he faces. | **Repetitive Elements**An image, word, situation, concept that is repeated. This clearly means it is important. Your job is to figure out why…. |