

# Frankenstein Trial Activity

## Procedures

1. Discuss the Creature's nature. Is he inherently evil? What made him so angry and vengeful?
2. Show the creature, before going off to the Arctic, suing his creator in civil court.  
**The Charges: negligence, malpractice, and emotional and physical distress.** Stage a mock trial of Victor Frankenstein for the above-mentioned charges. The trial, like the novel, can have science-fiction or fantasy elements.
3. Identify and research the charges, research the definitions of terms often used in the legal profession.
4. Determine what roles the following characters will play in the trial, and then prepare a working script for each participant:
  - o Victor Frankenstein
  - o the ghost of William Frankenstein
  - o the ghost of Justine Moritz
  - o the ghost of Henry Clerval
  - o the ghost of Elizabeth Lavenza
  - o the creature
  - o witness(es) for the plaintiff, including medical expert / ethicist
  - o witness(es) for the defendant, including medical expert / ethicist
  - o attorney for the plaintiff
  - o attorney for the defendant
  - o judge

Non-participating students will be the jurors. Mr. Farris will be the bailiff, the person who keeps order in the court.

5. Mock trial schedule:
  - o opening statement by plaintiff's attorney
  - o opening statement by defendant's attorney
  - o interrogation of plaintiff's witnesses by attorney for the plaintiff
  - o cross-examination of plaintiff's witnesses by attorney for the defendant
  - o interrogation of defendant's witnesses by attorney for the defendant
  - o cross-examination of defendant's witnesses by attorney for the plaintiff
  - o closing arguments by both attorneys
6. During the trial, the judge may intervene to help the witnesses and to respond to objections by attorneys. After both sides have rested their cases, the judge should remind the jury of its obligations. The jury will deliberate in front of the class. The jury will submit a verdict in writing to the judge, who will read it aloud.

### Sign-Ups:

Victor Frankenstein	_____
The ghost of William Frankenstein	_____
The ghost of Justine Moritz	_____
The ghost of Henry Clerval	_____
The ghost of Elizabeth Lavenza	_____
The creature	_____
Witness (es) for the plaintiff; medical expert / ethicist	_____
Witness (es) for the defendant; medical expert / ethicist	_____
Attorney for the plaintiff	_____
Attorney for the defendant	_____
Judge	_____