

GROUP MEMBERS; _____

THE DARK SIDE OF SCIENCE:

CREATING A SUPERHERO/VILLAIN WHO REFLECTS CURRENT ANXIETIES ABOUT SCIENCE

In *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley explored deep-rooted anxieties about nineteenth-century science and where it might be headed. As we have seen, superhero comics and movies play a similar role in the modern era, reflecting older Cold War fears of atomic annihilation and radioactive mutations, as well as more recent concerns about potentially destructive scientific advances.

Your assignment today is to brainstorm as a group and come up with **EITHER** a superhero **OR** a super-villain tied to **current fears of science**, be it the development of new drugs or consumer products, the use of animal replacement organs, experimentation with genetically modified organisms, the development of artificial intelligence or nanotechnology, or even global warming. (Feel free to go beyond this brief list!)

After you've finished brainstorming, fill out the information on the front and back of this sheet, and then prepare to "unveil" your creation to the class. (If we don't have time for this, turn in your sheets and we'll delay the unveiling for next time.)

Circle one: *superhero* *supervillain*

NAME OF YOUR SUPERBEING:

DESCRIPTION OF HIS/HER POWERS:

ORIGIN STORY (Make sure to connect to a societal fear of science):

Physical description: (Looks/Costume)

Any affiliations with existing superheroes or supervillains?

Do your best to draw your superhero/being here!