

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**First Year Writing-OER**  
**ENG 1101**  
“Classic” Five Paragraph Essay  
**PLANNING SHEET**

**INTRODUCTORY SECTION**

Opening statement that identifies the general topic of your essay:

Provide context for the topic (for example: why this topic was chosen and/or a reading source that most influenced your thinking):

**Transition and conclude** with *your* thesis/argument:

**BODY SECTION 1**

(This can be more than one paragraph)

**Transition into your Topic Sentence:** Identify the first point you are presenting to legitimize your thesis:

**Transition into your Support:** a, b, and c can appear in any order:

a. Show how this topic supports your thesis. (Consider description, definition, comparison, narrative, or cause and effect strategies.)

b. Integrate an outside source. Provide a reference to an outside source that supports your thesis. Use a paraphrase or a direct quote with a paraphrase from the source.

c. Respond to this outside source. Connect this reference to your topic sentence and argument.

**Transition and Conclude:** Connect the topic of this section to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph or section.

**BODY SECTION 2**

(This can be more than one paragraph)

**Transition into your Topic Sentence:** Identify the first point you are presenting to legitimize your thesis:

**Transition into your Support:** a, b, and c can appear in any order:

a. Show how this topic supports your thesis. (Consider description, definition, comparison, narrative, or cause and effect strategies.)

b. Integrate an outside source. Provide a reference to an outside source that supports your thesis. Use a paraphrase or a direct quote with a paraphrase from the source.

c. Respond to this outside source. Connect this reference to your topic sentence and argument.

**Transition and Conclude:** Connect the topic of this section to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph or section.

### BODY SECTION 3

(This can be more than one paragraph.)

**Transition into your Topic Sentence:** Identify the first point you are presenting to legitimize your thesis:

**Transition into your Support:** a, b, and c can appear in any order:

a. Show how this topic supports your thesis. (Consider description, definition, comparison, narrative, or cause and effect strategies.)

b. Integrate an outside source. Provide a reference to an outside source that supports your thesis. Use a paraphrase or a direct quote with a paraphrase from the source.

c. Respond to this outside source. Connect this reference to your topic sentence and argument.

**Transition and Conclude:** Connect the topic of this section to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph or section.

### CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

**Transition and Restate:** your thesis.

**Transition into your support:** Summarize your topic sentences

**Transition and Conclude:** offer a closing remark on the overall topic.

