

## **Getting Ready for Your In-Class Final**

**Focus 1:** Understanding the main idea of your article(s)

Reason: Most in-class essay final exams will be based on one or more articles. These articles will usually set the tone for the essay topic.

Therefore, Have I:

\_\_\_\_\_ Read my article(s) at least three times to understand the topic and writing style?

\_\_\_\_\_ Noted the author's key points and overall main idea?

\_\_\_\_\_ Tried to summarize the article(s) so I can re-state the article in my own words?

\_\_\_\_\_ Tried to **learn** the article instead of simply reading it?

\_\_\_\_\_ Spoken to my professor about my understanding of the article?

\_\_\_\_\_ Spoken to a tutor about my understanding of the article?

\_\_\_\_\_ Given my best effort in terms of this step of the process?

**Practice: Read an article, find the main points and summarize it.**

**After practicing this step, my reflection/main concern(s) is/are:**

**Focus 2:** Understanding the writing expectations

Reason: Many professors will not tell you the type of essay you will write while some may. Reviewing your writing outlines will assist you in this effort.

Therefore, Have I:

\_\_\_\_\_ Brought out my outlines from paragraphs and/or past essays?

\_\_\_\_\_ Practiced outlining different essays of these types?

\_\_\_\_\_ Practiced using my articles with their issues in these outlines?

\_\_\_\_\_ Tried to **learn** the writing style rather than just "doing what works"?

\_\_\_\_\_ Spoken to my professor to clarify my understanding of the writing process?

\_\_\_\_\_ Spoken to a tutor to clarify any writing questions I may have?

\_\_\_\_\_ Given my best effort in terms of this step of the process?

**Practice:** Use an outline for the writing process, including the article.

**After practicing this step, my reflection/main concern(s) is/are:**

**Focus 3:** Practicing the writing structure

Reason: All essay tests will be based on the same concept: Intro, background, thesis, body paragraphs with topic sentences, major support for each point, specific support for each point. **[This structure does not switch.]**

Therefore, Have I:

\_\_\_\_\_ Made sure I know about the background about my article topic and written it?

\_\_\_\_\_ Decided on what my points will be?

\_\_\_\_\_ Put these points in my body paragraphs?

\_\_\_\_\_ Discussed only one point per paragraph?

\_\_\_\_\_ Made sure I have enough support for each point in my body paragraphs?

\_\_\_\_\_ Written completely about that one point before I go to the next?

\_\_\_\_\_ Spoken to my professor about my understanding of an essay?

\_\_\_\_\_ Spoken to a tutor about my understanding of essays?

\_\_\_\_\_ Given my best effort in terms of this step of the process?

**Practice:** Create a thesis, make solid topic sentences and find support.

**After practicing this step, my reflection/main concern(s) is/are (write a solid paragraph explaining your feelings and concerns about this part) [Timed-20 min]:**