

## **In Class Writing Assignment - Descriptive Essay**

*This is the first of two in class writing assignments for Core A. In class writing is an important skill for students to practice, and one that will be repeated each year at PEP. The classroom environment for the essay should be “test day” with each student working quietly and individually, and the tutor available to answer individual questions. Keep in mind that many students struggle with in class writing - encourage them to do their best work, assuring them that it will become easier each time.*

Have the students choose a favorite character from either a movie or a book to write about. Allow them to use a completed Five Paragraph Essay Outline as a guide. The outline may only contain key words and phrases – **NO COMPLETE SENTENCES**. At the beginning of class, check student outlines to be sure that they have followed directions.

Include the following checklist on the board:

### Favorite Character Essay

- The essay should be five paragraphs long and include:
  - One introductory paragraph
  - Three body paragraphs
  - One closing paragraphs
  - A creative title
  
- Include a clear thesis in the introductory paragraph
- Each body paragraph should support one of your three points
- Good transitions
- No “I, me, my, etc.” unless relating personal experience as support in a body paragraph
- No “you, your, etc.” Don’t address the audience directly

(Any other notes that you think would be helpful to the students.)