Five-Paragraph Essay (or essays) on the Five-Paragraph Essay

Due Dates: Monday, April 3 – Rough Draft
   Monday, April 3 — Peer Review Session
   Monday, April 7 – Final Draft Due (& previous drafts)
Length: Roughly 5-8 pages. Double spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt. Times or Times New Roman. If you want to innovate with the document design to advance your ideas, feel free to do so. But please, only deviate for a purpose.
Assignment: This assignment is meant to accomplish a number of goals:

• to engage in meta-writing and self-reflexive (not reflective) writing
• to complicate the ideas that the five-paragraph essay and the Jane Schaffer approaches are either "necessary training wheels" or damaging to student writers
• to create productive dialogue between the topic of formulaic writing and critical pedagogy, feminist pedagogy, and Joseph Williams' claims about error

In this writing project, you will need to write one or more five-paragraph essays on the topic of the five-paragraph essay and Jane Shaffer writing method. Your project should attempt to breath critical intellectual life into this writing form, working with the format (in its most rigid form or an adaptation of it) to make your claims. You will need to have a complex, intellectually satisfying argument, by which I mean a set of ideas that you are inquiring into and that you explore with more than a mere thesis. Already, you can see that I am asking you to exceed the thought that usually goes into writing a formulaic, five-paragraph essay. That is the point. I want you to leverage your repertoire of writing abilities in the creation of an innovative text that says something vital about the form you are working with and its significance as a cultural artifact.

Optional Writing Conference: While it is not required, you are welcome to schedule a 20-30 minute one-on-one writing conference with me about this project.