Final Paper Development Worksheet

→ Identify all passages completely (page number, line numbers)!

1. Choose a short passage from Lucretius about which you’d like to write in your final paper. In one paragraph, argue an original interpretation of it for your own purposes.

2. State clearly, in one sentence, the (non-obvious) point made by the paragraph you wrote for #1.
3. (A) Explain how the point articulated in #2 could fit into the larger argument of a paper. (B) What other (kind of) point could work together with this one in such a larger argument?

4. Find a second passage from Lucretius, and dealing with the same theme, as the passage you chose for #1. (Bear in mind that your final paper has to use evidence from throughout Lucretius’ poem!) In this passage, what are the most interesting details to comment on and argue over?
5. Find a third passage from Lucretius, one which is definitely not obviously related in theme to the other two passages, but which could be shown through an argument to be relevant to consider in a paper on the theme you’ve got going here. [Think about this for a while. Examples of what you might find here include: a passage where the interesting thing that is directly or literally taking place in your other two passages is taking place indirectly or figuratively; a passage where an argument could demonstrate that something can be learned by the fact that your theme does not come up in the passage; etc.] How could the relevance of this passage be argued?

6. Find a fourth passage, from another work, that could help illuminate the point you’re trying to make in this paper. [Do this even though your paper’s argument will only concern one text. Practice your ability to strengthen your argument with material and ideas from your more general survey of related ancient Greek texts.]
7. Read over your answers to #1 – #6. Based on these answers, suggest what your paper as a whole could most fruitfully argue. [Be sure not to state a topic (the starting point of your paper) but to summarize an argument (the aspect of your paper that depends on the detailed interpretation of points that require argumentation/analysis to be clear and persuasive).]