**Third and final worksheet on Plato’s *Phaedo* (95e-118, *lightly skimming* 96a-100a, but reading the rest carefully):**

1. What’s the gist of what we could call Socrates’ “intellectual autobiography,” found at 96a-100a? How did he begin his pursuit of knowledge with his teacher Anaxagoras, why did he become dissatisfied with it, and what method did he eventually decide to pursue instead?

2. At 100b-107b, Socrates gives what he seems to think is his best argument for the immortality of the soul. Sketch out the stages of the argument as given under the headings and page numbers below.

a. 1st stage (100b-102b): basic premises about the forms of opposite things:

b. 2nd stage (102b-103c): Socrates, Simmias, & Phaedo; and opposite things vs. the opposites themselves (103b):

c. 3rd stage (103c-105c): fire & the Hot, snow & the Cold; 3 and & the Odd, 2 & the Even:

d. 4th stage (105c-e): the soul and Life & Death:

e. 5th stage (105e-106d): “deathless” things:

f. 6th stage (106d-107b): the soul and immortality:

3. What advice does Socrates give to his friends (115b-c)? Does Socrates advise them to believe everything he has said? Why or why not? What does this suggest about how we should take Socrates’ arguments about the immortality of the personal soul?

4. What are Socrates’ last words? How does our translator interpret them in footnote 24? Do you agree? That is, does it follow from the fact that sick people *hoping* for a cure sacrifice a cock to the god Asclepius, that “Socrates obviously means that death *is* a cure for the ills of life”? Do you see another way to interpret Socrates final words – especially in the light of what he said earlier at 89b and 90d-91c? Explain.