**English 2E**

**Discussion of *Allegory of the Cave* and “To See and Not See”**

1. What connections can you make between Virgil’s experiences in Sacks’ article and the cave dwellers’ experiences in the *Allegory* as they learn to see? What is seeing like and what does it mean to be able to see? Make a Venn diagram to help you explain the similarities and differences.
2. In both texts, there is a discussion of the relationship between sight and meaning. In Sacks’ article, the relationship is neurological. In Plato’s *Allegory*, it is philosophical. Explain what it means to see and to know in each text. How are they the same and different across the texts?
3. In Sacks’ article, Virgil never fully learns to understand the world as a sighted person. The neurological change he experiences when his vision is restored also requires a psychological change—an identity shift. In other words, he has to become a different person in many ways. In what ways is Virgil successful as a sighted person, and in what ways is he not?
4. Consider the question above and compare/contrast what Sacks explains to what Plato says about learning in the *Allegory*.