

Name:

## Connecting "Code of the Street" to *Long Way Down*

**Task:** Write a paragraph connecting ideas from "Code of the Street" to *Long Way Down*.

**Steps:**

**1. Choose a specific poem from the list below. All of these poems are about "the rules."**

"No. 3: Questions" (18), "In Case You Ain't Know" (19), "I Felt Like Crying" (30), "The Rules No. 1: Crying" (31), "No. 2: Snitching" (32), "No. 3: Revenge" (33), "There's A Strange Thing" (73), "And I'm Glad I Found It" (94), "You Got Work To Do" (101), "I Had Half a Second" (109), "When They Said" (135), "Dani Was Killed" (141), "But To Explain Myself" (173), "Uncle Mark Huffed" (174), "The Scene" (176), "I Wiped My Face" (209), "What You Think You Should Do" (210), "But You Did What You Had To Do" (217), "Shawn Ain't Say Nothing" (253), "Again" (267), "Tony Talking" (273), "When the Elevator Door Opened" (281), "I Told Him" (293), "Explained" (294), "The Rules Are The Rules" (296), "I Looked Back at Shawn" (298).

**2. Fill in this graphic organizer for your chosen poem.**

**Example:**

| Poem                    | Claim from "The Code of the Streets"                                                                                                                                                            | Evidence from poem     | Evidence from "The Code of the Streets"                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Rules No. 1: Crying | Example: Alexander emphasizes the importance of the performance of "manhood." Young men feel compelled to display a certain emotional toughness requiring them to suppress their vulnerability. | "No matter what" (31). | "[Manhood] implies physicality and a certain ruthlessness.... For many inner-city youths, manhood and respect are flip sides of the same coin; physical and psychological well-being are inseparable, and both require a sense of control, of being in charge" (14) |

| Poem | Claim from "The Code of the Streets" | Evidence from poem (exact text) | Evidence from "The Code of the Streets" (exact text) |
|------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|      |                                      |                                 |                                                      |

**3. Complete the prompt: (1 paragraph~200+ words)**

How do some of the poems in *Long Way Down* exemplify (connect to) Alexander's claims in his essay "The Code of the Streets"? **Cite specific lines/evidence from both the essay and the poems to justify your response. (IN OTHER WORDS, TURN YOUR GRAPHIC ORGANIZER INTO A PARAGRAPH!)**