Overview:

Joyce Carol Oates plays upon the female gender stereotypes through her victimized adolescent character, Connie, in Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been. Naivety and inexperience are two characteristics that portray Connie as a weak teenager, desperately seeking to find her identity in a world where women are expected to act a certain way. Connie falls victim to the advances of a man because she lacks masculine guidance in her life, and falls prey to the stereotypical female role of subordination.

I think that this is a solid initial thesis because Joyce, through her lead character, is able to show the weaknesses associated with the stereotypes of women. Readers of this story could interpret Connie to be a warning sign for women that rape for naïve girls is inevitable, however, I think that Joyce’s message is much deeper, as she wants to show women that they have the power to not be a part of a stereotype.

Outline:
My introduction will include the paragraph in my overview, but I also plan on expanding on how Oates portrays the female expectations within society, and how these expectations are shown in her short story. My working thesis is currently: Connie falls victim to the advances of a man because she lacks masculine guidance in her life, and falls prey to the stereotypical female role of subordination.

Freud argues that obedience is inspired by love for those early figures in our lives that demand obedience, i.e. a father. Freud argues the dominance forms bonds of love, and could be applied to a father-daughter relationship. Without a father figure to yield power to, Connie is in search of a different man to surrender to. Connie describes her father as being unavailable in her life, and playing little role in her maturation into a woman. Connie struggles to find a boy who will complete her, but none seem to stand out to her (quote from story). While Connie is intelligent enough to understand the importance in avoiding a character like Arnold, she desires the attention from and surrendering to an older male character. Include sources from the text, and Benjamin.

Before Connie can surrender to anyone, she must first have established the type of person she is. She believes herself to be a powerful, beautiful, independent woman, and one much wiser than her foolish mother. She evokes independence, yet struggles with finding satisfying attention from a man. However independent she believes herself to be, she is like every other teenage girl trying to find her place. Her mother emphasizes Connie’s need to be like her older sister, “plain and steady.” Connie is not meant to be a unique girl, but one who should fit the mold of a submissive and quiet woman. Include textual evidence and Barstow.
Joyce uses words to play into Connie’s desire to have attention and closeness to Arnold, with his last name Friend, and even the emphasis of his masculinity with a bumper sticker emphasizing man in “man the flying saucers.” Connie plays the role of the nymph in classical myths, when she falls victim to the seductively evil advances of Arnold, the satyr. Without an identity, Connie inevitably searches for herself through the attentions of Arnold. *Include textual evidence and Easterly.*

**Abstract of 3 Sources:**

<http://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=b_Lu1EgpVh4C&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=feminism&ots=T_mjH7DWGT&sig=9vOFLzsLtps9mgtkZ8IrgXpuPkw#v=onepage&q=feminism&t=false>.

Jessica Benjamin focuses on the Freudian concepts of domination, and how Freud depicts domination in a father-son relationship to be crucial to forming a bond of love. He argues that everyone craves the need to be subordinant to a powerful man based on social orders. Jessica breaks down Freud’s theory and applies it to women. She emphasizes the need for any person to accept authority, and how women are the “primary other” to men.

I want to use Jessica’s theory of domination and feminism to expand on my idea that Connie’s relationship with not only her father, but also her mother, are key reasons for Connie’s desire to obey Arnold. She does not realize her attraction to the power that Arnold holds over her, but because she craves a bond of love, she ultimately obeys Arnold’s command to leave with him. I think that this theory that Jessica is trying to overcome, plays into Oates ideology that women are strong enough to overcome the power roles society has placed men and women into.

<http://web.ebscohost.com.snc.idm.oclc.org/ehost/detail?vid=4&sid=f2c6aba0-f3c6-4110-babe-659b94f3f762%40sessionmgr112&hid=112&bdata=JkF1dGhUeXBIWOBWb2tpZSxpcGlxJmN1c3RpZDJ1Nj9kNNDI3OCZzaXRlPWb3N0LWxpmUmc2NveGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#db=lfh&AN=103331MSS2427924000038>.

Bastow provides a summary of *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?* that emphasizes the naivety and loss of innocence through Connie’s character. She emphasizes the larger theme of vulnerability that is present in American society, and how the stereotypes present today prevent women from being able to protect themselves from the evils in the world, such as rape and murder. Barstow also touches on the topic of the relationship between Connie and her mother, and the lack of female love between the two of them. She argues that if Connie’s mother had been more open to communication and love, then Connie would not have fallen prey to Arnold Friend.

This article would be very useful for me to expand on Freud’s idea of the relationship between a father and son, and use the relationship of a mother and a daughter. Mother’s are expected to be nurturing and loving, and Connie’s mother goes
against those norms. I want to emphasize the importance of having a loving relationship within family, and how Connie lacks any sort of nurturing relationship. This lack of a true relationship is a reason that pushed her towards Arnold.

<http://web.ebscohost.com.snc.idm.oclc.org/ehost/detail?vid=4&sid=f2c6aba0-f3c6-4110-babe-659b94f3f762%40sessionmgr112&hid=112&bdata=JkF1dGhUeXBlPWNvb2tpZSxpcCjxcGlkJmN1c3RpZD1zNjk0NDI3OCZzaXRlPWVob3N0LWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#db=lfh&AN=9705100587>.

In a “Satyr of Oate’s ‘Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?’” The author focuses on the theme of sexuality and self-identity through the connection between Arnold Friend and Connie as nymphs and satyrs in classical myths. Because Connie lacks anything that defines who she is as a girl, she allows Arnold to take advantage of her in an attempt to discover who she is. Connie plays into the role of the stereotypical ignorant and submissive female, like a nymph, who is always overcome by a satyr. Arnold, symbolized as a powerfully devil, yet intriguing satyr, who can be symbolized as the freedom found in freedom. He is the sole reason for Connie’s desire to be independent, the main reason she allows him to dominate her.

I think that this article could provide for a unique viewpoint in my paper by incorporating the idea of a nymph and satyr to represent Connie and Arnold. I like the concept of Arnold representing a dream and fantasy in a more general concept, and that through this depiction, Arnold and Connie play into the feminist viewpoint of Connie’s vulnerability to Arnold, her dangerous fantasy.

**Timeline:**
Begin first draft after receiving peer review feedback on Sunday, October 20.
Re-visit and continue working on draft Monday and Tuesday, October 21-22.
Finalize first draft on Thursday, October 24.
Turn in final first draft on Friday, October 25.