

UTA ENGL 1302 Essays: Suggested Outlines with Word Counts

1. [Issue Proposal](#) (TS/S page UTA-32) = 1200-1500 words, 4-5 pages

Introduction section (¼-½ page, 150 words)

- A. “They say”
- B. “I say”
- C. “So what?” and “Who cares?”

- I. Overview: Your current (pre-existing) knowledge of the issue (1-2 pages, 300-500 words) -- what do you know, and how do you know it?
- II. Your preliminary research questions & your speculative answers (1 page, 300 words)
- III. Possible sources for research (½ page, 150 words)
- IV. People (½ page - 1 page, 150-250 words)
 - A. Your audience and publication venue where your audience would read your essay/ article
 - B. Your allies and opponents -- who are they?

Conclusion section (¼-½ page, 150 words)

NOTE: TS/S refers to Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein’s [They Say, I Say, UTA version, 5th edition](https://digital.wwnorton.com/theysay5utarlington), digital.wwnorton.com/theysay5utarlington

2. [Annotated Bibliography](#) (TS/S page UTA-40) = 1500-3000 words, 5-10 pages

10 sources, total, listed in the Bibliography (alphabetized Works Cited in MLA Style)

- At least 2 of the 10 = background info of the issue
- At least 3 of the 10 = distinct positions of the issue

For each source, have a 2-paragraph annotation in this format:

- I. External situation:
 - A. Type of publication venue
 - B. Genre
 - C. Author and author's credibility
 - D. Intended audience
 - E. Publication date and relevance

- II. Internal situation = Summary of contents
 - A. Central claim
 - B. Supporting reasons
 - C. Evidence and warrants (logical reasoning, assumptions)

RESEARCH ADVICE

You can use articles from UTA Libraries' [article database](#) (like "Academic Search Complete") reputable web sources, personal interviews that you've conducted (field research), essays/articles from the "Readings" chapter of the [They Say / I Say textbook](#) and [They Say, I Blog](#) article site, and tried-and-true printed texts checked out from the UTA library ([assisted by UTA's librarians](#)).

3. Mapping the Issue (TS/S page UTA-47) = 1500-1800 words, 5-6 pages

Introduction section (¼-½ page, 150 words)

- A. "They say"
- B. "I say"
- C. "So what?" and "Who cares?"

I. Background of the issue (1 page, 300 words)

- A. Cause of the controversy
- B. Major turning points in the history
- C. Who is interested and why?

II. 1st Position (1 page, 300 words)

- A. Description: their Claims, Reasons, Evidence, Warrants (underlying Assumptions)
- B. Summary of argument from a 1st Position Source

III. 2nd Position (1 page, 300 words)

- A. Description: their Claims, Reasons, Evidence, Warrants (underlying Assumptions)
- B. Summary of argument from a 2nd Position Source

IV. 1st vs. 2nd Position (¼-½ page, 150 words)

- A. Comparison: How are they similar? (common ground)
- B. Contrast: How are they different?

V. 3rd Position (1 page, 300 words)

- A. Description: their Claims, Reasons, Evidence, Warrants (underlying Assumptions)
- B. Summary of argument from a 3rd Position Source

VI. 3rd Position vs. 1st and 2nd (¼-½ page, 150 words)

- A. Comparison: How are they similar? (common ground)
- B. Contrast: How are they different?

Conclusion section (¼-½ page, 150 words)

SOURCE DOCUMENTATION REMINDER:

*Include Works Cited page of sources used in your MI essay (Works Cited NOT included in the word count). This should be the LAST page of your MI essay file.

* Have appropriate in-text citation (based on your chosen publication venue) of your sources wherever you used them in your MI essay -- this IS included in the word count, so having enough in-text citations (at least the authors' names of the sources) benefits you. Since the publication venue is an online magazine, then clickable links of the authors' names are enough.

4. [Researched Position Paper](#) (TS/S page UTA-57) = 1800-3500 words, 6-11 pages

Note: Essay/ article structure is from TS/S Ch 18 “Analyze This: Writing in the Social Sciences”

Intro section (½-1 page, 150-250 words)

- A. “They say”
- B. “I say”
- C. “So what?” and “Who cares?”

I. Literature Review of “They say” (1-2 pages, 300-600 words)

- A. Background of the controversy
- B. The People (“stakeholders”): Allies and Opponents and Those In-Between

II. Analysis of “I say” (3-5 pages, 900-1500 words)

- A. Reason 1, with Evidence and Warrants / Underlying Assumptions (300-500 words)
- B. Reason 2, with Evidence and Warrants / Underlying Assumptions (300-500 words)
- C. Reason 3, with Evidence and Warrants / Underlying Assumptions (300-500 words)

III. Objections of the “Naysayers” (1-3 pages, 300-900 words)

- A. What “They say”
- B. What “I say” as rebuttal
- C. What “I say” as concession (compromise)

Conclusion section (½-1 page, 150-250 words)

- A. “I say”
- B. Effects (benefits of “I say” and negative consequences of “They say”)
- C. Recommendations

SOURCE DOCUMENTATION REMINDER:

*Include a Works Cited page of sources used in your RPP essay (Works Cited NOT included in the word count). This should be the LAST page of your RPP essay file.

* Have appropriate in-text citation (based on your chosen publication venue) of your sources wherever you used them in your RPP essay -- this IS included in the word count, so having enough in-text citations benefits you. If you're not sure, MLA style is your trusty friend.