Engl 1A Spring 2017 Proposal Outline (sample)

**Overview**: Not everyone uses outlines as a preliminary to drafting an essay (or anything else), but I think they are extremely useful as a way to make sure you are covering the main points you have to make and as a way to experiment with organization before it is whole sentences or paragraphs you’re moving around.

For this assignment, I just want to see the main “backbone” of your proposal, your main points and your main support. The sample below is just a guide. Don’t copy its content, just the format and approximate length. I want to be able to glance over these quickly and hand them back, so don’t just write a draft and put numbers and letters on the left margin, OK?

**Details:** This is an outline for a letter I would write to Debby Tewa, Hopi Solar Engineer, to try to interest her in the idea of collaborating with SJSU on an ASB to her reservation. Note that the introduction just roughs out what the opening will accomplish, rather than being a draft of the introduction the letter will eventually have.

**Introduction**: Open with a compliment about her work, referring to the *Heroes of the Environment* profile where I first read about it. Briefly introduce myself, my school, and my idea. Refer to shared goals: helping students develop into problem-solvers for a better future of the planet, maybe add something about social justice and the reduction of poverty.

1. What we all can hope to gain: briefly describe Diana Victa’s Oaxaca ASB and the mutually beneficial relationship it built between the Oaxaca community and ours.
2. Sharing of knowledge between us (SJSU students and maybe Engineers Without Borders faculty) and her team.
3. Labor our students could provide, fundraising they could do before leaving
4. New technology/ideas our faculty could bring to further her work.
5. Why her reservation is the perfect spot for us to go
6. our students want hands-on experience, service
7. can’t afford international trips that are so popular with richer schools
8. We can just drive there
9. We’re interested in Hopi culture, too
10. Links between Silicon Valley that she might benefit from in the future
11. Increased/renewed ties with her old company, Sandia
12. New ties with educational facilities/labs in Silicon Valley
13. Future student workers/fundraising
14. Increased visibility for her work/accomplishments
15. Possible obstacles addressed
16. Timing—is she too busy in the summer?
17. Accommodations for us on the res. (tents?)

**Conclusion**: Briefly reiterate what we could all gain; make reference to shared values—develop students’ commitment to finding green solutions to 21st-century problems, honoring both ancient wisdom and cutting-edge technology.