

## **What former campers have said about their LD experience at UTNIF:**

*(Comments were taken from end-of-camp evaluations with permission of the students.)*

*Kelsey Valadez, Dulles HS, Sugar Land, TX: “The best parts of UTNIF were the diversity of lectures and electives and the start-stop rounds. Every single judge I had was super patient and really nice. I got lots of help with different skills. This camp allows improvement for anyone, no matter what level. I like the environment of UTNIF. It is very supportive and encouraging. I think every instructor here is really approachable, and it is very easy to get help with things you need to improve upon.” (2007 & 2008)*

*Dylan Smith, Van HS, Van, TX: “I enjoyed the combination of progressive and traditional debate quite a bit. UTNIF is a program that has allowed me to progress in an activity that I love.” (2007 & 2008)*

*Zoe Kent, Bishop McGuinness HS, Oklahoma: “The camp just taught me so, so much. I’ve never felt like I fit in more than I do when I’m here. I would very much love to suggest this camp to others. It was the highlight of my summer.” (2008)*

*Mu Li, Sandra Day O’Conner HS, San Antonio, TX: “I learned in two weeks what would have taken me a year. The start-stop rounds were extremely helpful because they allowed me to learn basic concepts that are next to impossible to learn in lectures. In lab, I didn’t even have a minute to waste. The staff was all helpful, and the diversity of their personalities adds to the camp’s awesomeness. Ms. Thomas always answered our questions, and she knew everyone of us by name. That dedication is amazing! I highly recommend UTNIF to debaters of all levels.” (2008)*

*Stephen Vincent, Foster HS, Richmond TX: “The camp was extremely helpful in terms of case writing, literature use, and learning basic skills. The judges I had were all helpful in terms of getting us to question our own logic and look at arguments in a different light. We were able to produce more efficient rebuttals as a result. The staff was passionate about the subject, which made the experience that much more enjoyable.” (2008)*

*Sally Ashkar, Elkins HS, Missouri City, TX: “The best part of camp was the hands-on help. Everyone here is incredibly nice and so willing to assist with anything. The people I met here are some of the nicest, funniest, and most intelligent people I have ever met. I cannot even begin to talk about how much I have learned here.” (2008)*

*Brandon Nichols, Bryan HS, Bryan, TX: “I really enjoyed the staff and students at the camp. I would tell others to come here if they want a place to learn from people who care and to have fun. I found the lectures very helpful. I think my lab was perfect for me. I enjoyed the flowing exercises, rebuttal re-dos, cross-examination practice, and answering arguments. Both my lab leaders were very supportive, and it was very apparent that they were here to help. They were extremely knowledgeable about debate.” (2008)*

*Michael Valdez, Memorial HS, Victoria, TX: “This camp has made me a million times better than what I was when I came here. I loved the elective format. It was a way to tailor the camp to the philosophy in your region. My lab was a great mix of fun and learning. There wasn’t a drill where I didn’t learn something. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to attend this amazing institution.” (2008)*

*Shana Bolander, Elkins HS, Missouri City, TX:* “I had reached a hump in my debate career because personal reasons were preventing me from excelling. One of my lab leaders helped me through my emotional needs. I learned a lot about debate at UTNIF. I learned a lot about myself, as well. The people are so amazing here. It sounds so cliché, but I’m a different person. While my debate career will end at the end of my high school years, I will carry the lessons I’ve learned at UTNIF with me always.” (2008)

*Monique Malone, Marcus HS, Flower Mound, TX:* “The dynamic of everyone made the camp such a special experience. I LOVE start-stop rounds. They were the only thing that has allowed me to understand strategy. I really liked my lab. The instructors made camp very educational but still fun. I can’t even start to explain how much this camp has taught me.” (2008)

*Rohun Ati, Plano East HS, Plano, TX:* “UTNIF was a great experience. I really learned a lot, especially how to get that extra 10 percent to be more successful. All the lectures were great, and the staff is very helpful.” (2008)

*Amanda Cottrell, Sealy HS, Sealy, TX:* “The reason I rate UNTIF as excellent is because it is helpful, and I learned so much in two weeks – more than I did all year. Everyone was very nice and willing to help.” (2008)

*Andy Flook, Cary Academy, North Carolina:* “The camp was perfectly rigorous and was an excellent way for me to stay with debate over the summer. UTNIF was exactly what I needed.” (2008)

*Hailey Pulman, Clark HS, San Antonio, TX:* “You come in as a novice and come out varsity material. I urge anyone with a passion for debate to come! I really learned a lot and heard about things that never before crossed my mind.” (2008)

*Chris Jo, Marcus HS, Flower Mound, TX:* “The experience at the camp was astonishing. The time flew fast, but I’ve learned so much. I love UTNIF. The faculty was awesome. This experience will stay with me forever. I’ve learned to become a better debater, as well as a better person. Thank you UTNIF.” (2008)

*Rayna Smith, Mansfield HS, Mansfield, TX:* “The camp is very intense, but I learned a ridiculous amount from everyone. I found the experience very enjoyable. I came here without any experience in debate, and I will leave not only a more confident speaker and better debater, but a person with a better understanding of philosophy and many new friends.” (2008)

*Hammad Syed, Elkins HS, Missouri City, TX:* “This camp can make extreme changes in how you see and do debate. The best part of this camp is the teaching staff. I think they are great. I would definitely recommend this camp if you want to be a good debater because UTNIF is what you need.” (2008)

*Lindsey Jones, Hendrickson HS, Pflugerville, TX:* “The start-stop rounds were the best because they really helped me understand what I had been doing wrong and to be more efficient in terms of word economy. The lectures were quite helpful to better understand the whole game of debate. Lab time was used well. We did different drills focused on clarity, speed, and strategy. This camp is great for anyone looking to improve their debating skills and willing to work hard.” (2008)

*Ryan Lester, Dulles HS, Sugar Land, TX:* “UTNIF has been such a big part of why I love debate. The amount of personal attention I got and the sheer amount of knowledge the staff possesses is mind boggling. UTNIF is one choice that will have a positive effect on you for the entirety of your debate career.” (2007, 2006, & 2005)

*Jason Bourque, Van HS, Van, TX:* “UTNIF is fun and creates champions. It is more than a camp. It is a big group of friends all trying to learn together. This was my third year at UTNIF, and every year, I improve drastically. UTNIF is about debate, whether it is NFL, TOC, TFA, or UIL. It will help you understand how to debate on any circuit.” (2007, 2006, & 2005)

*Emily Koehler, Caney Creek HS, Conroe, TX:* “UTNIF has definitely helped me to reach the next level of my debating career. They’ve taught subjects more in depth than any school debate team would be able to do. In addition, they made me evaluate my true self and reasons for being a debater. I am now much more confident in my debating and communication abilities. I have transitioned from debating for a trophy to debating for the educational and personal benefits.” (2007 & 2006)

*Eddie Elizondo, United HS, Laredo, TX:* “The camp easily exceeded the high expectations I had for it. UTNIF is perfect for anyone who wants two tough weeks filled with great labs and great lab leaders, lectures, and a choice of electives that are of interest. I’ve learned more in two weeks than my full school year debating. I’ll enter the upcoming school year with the confidence that I can compete at a much higher level. I would never hesitate to recommend UTNIF to any debater. I don’t know where else you can find such a knowledgeable staff at one of the best college campuses in the nation.” (2007)

*Briana Rogers, Katy HS, Katy, TX:* “This camp has the ability to break down everything about debate and make it understandable to anyone. The combination of the great material, excellent people, and the Austin atmosphere makes this camp amazing!” (2007)

*Danielle Suh, Westlake HS, Austin, TX:* “I learned so much from this camp that it is insane. All the staff is so qualified and helpful, and I had so much fun. I learned more than I thought humanly possible about debate, philosophers, judges, EVERYTHING.” (2007)

*David Magnotta, Reagan HS, San Antonio, TX:* “UTNIF was extremely helpful!!! The staff is always there for you. The start-stop practice rounds will let you see an improvement in yourself. Overall, a great unforgettable experience—the best choice for debate camp.” (2007)

*Emma Izquierdo, Coronado HS, El Paso, TX:* “UTNIF was one of my best experiences. I made new friends, expanded my thoughts, and grew as a person. This camp to me will always be remembered with laughter, knowledge, new friends, and lots of walking. It was really awesome!” (2007)

*Kyle Gardner, Devine HS, Devine, TX:* “This is the most knowledge you can gain in two weeks. It is intense and rigorous while maintaining a level of fun. The camp caters to all circuits, even UIL. The stop-start practice rounds alone are worth the money.” (2007)

*Andrew Cockroft, Elkins HS, Missouri City, TX:* “UTNIF was one of the best experiences of my life. Along with its awesome facilities and the campus itself, UTNIF has offered a curriculum for traditional to the most technical debaters, as well as some of the most approachable lab leaders around. It is a great camp for new, as well as experienced debaters, looking for that extra edge to win more rounds. All in all, both years that I went to UTNIF, the lab leaders were

knowledgeable as well as fun people to be around, and with their help, I learned valuable skills that led to my successes.” (2006 & 2005)

*Hunter Gimbel, Ashland HS, Oregon:* “I felt like I learned more at UTNIF than I do in the course of a full year of school. The educational environment encourages you to learn, as well as encouraging others to do the same. Overall a unique experience that would be silly to pass up.” (2006 & 2005)

*Nathan Abell, Marcus HS, Flower Mound, TX:* “The educational experience of UTNIF is simply unparalleled anywhere in the nation. The camp does an absolutely incredible job of catering to any level of debate experience, really pushing students from one level to the next. In large part, in my experience, this was due to the incredible staff provided to each student quite literally 24/7 that was comprised of not just really, really good coaches and former debaters, but really, really good coaches and former debaters who can actually educate in an effective manner.” (2006)

*Chris Jarmon, Ozen HS, Beaumont, TX:* “The camp was a great educational experience that I would recommend to anyone. You will definitely learn and become a better debater.” (2006)

*Ian Panchevre, Clark HS, San Antonio, TX:* “What I loved the most about UTNIF is that any person, of any experience level, can fit in there. Whether you’re a novice and haven’t debated yet or have a national ranking, there’s always something to learn and people to work with that challenge you and help you.” (2006)