

FINAL NINJAS OF THE 512 OUTLINE

FIRST 7,500 WORDS:

1. Suzie Jimenez, a schoolteacher, is laid off while prepping for back-to-school, thanks to Governor Nick Harry's budget cuts.
2. Shock, anger, disgust, hits the tae kwon do studio where she's a black belt, to work out her frustration. We meet her boyfriend, Ira Gold, who's an instructor, as well as the wise elderly owner of the dojo, Master Gray (something of a Mr. Miyagi figure). They tell her she can teach at the school part-time while she tries to figure out what to do next.
3. Fellow teachers meet up to do a protest march at the Capitol. During their planned attack, ninjas swoop in, creating mass chaos. Teachers and Congresspeople alike flee the scene in terror. Suzie is caught in the middle of the melee, and sees A) Governor Harry escape by limo and B) a ninja "attacker" seemingly letting him go (setting up a spy storyline).
4. Heroine comes to hand-to-hand combat with the ninjas! She has a concealed weapon, which she busts out, capping her opponent (or just knocking him out with the butt of the pistol?) just as he's about to overpower her. She's then captured by the band of ninjas.
5. Surprise twist: Ninjas issue a statement re: their benevolent dictatorship to the media, suggesting they've taken control in order to right Texas' wrongs and remove the long-standing Governor Harry from power once and for all. They issue an ultimatum: Governor Harry wanted, dead or alive!

SECOND 7,500 WORDS:

1. Captured by the ninjas, Suzie is blindfolded and taken to their base. Once there, they attempt to sway her to join their cause. She hates Harry, why not? They seem to know a lot about her and her personal affiliations; wtf?
2. Leader of the ninja squad unmask himself – it's Suzie's boyfriend! They argue about whether revolution can be achieved peacefully and why brute force will never work in this situation or any other. Suzie employs tactics of pointing to historical coups and cites Gandhi, MLK. Boyfriend cites revolutions like the American and French to show that only bloodshed can reverse the course of an evil dictator's regime.
3. As they battle verbally, a report comes in: pirates are attacking the ninjas holding the fort at the Capitol! Blasting cannons from tall ships down at Town Lake! Ninjas at the Capitol disperse to the streets to spring upon the pirates for hand-to-hand combat.
4. Pirates vs. ninjas: battle on Town Lake! Take it onto Auditorium Shores. Use rented paddle boats and standup surfboards to descend upon the ships. Powder kegs used to blow up the boats.
5. Lead of the Pirates turns out to be the Governor himself! Chuckling over his billions of dollars embezzled from the state's "rainy day fund," and the way he's finally destroyed education, bankrupted healthcare, eliminated Planned Parenthood, and otherwise ruined Texas for Texans, the pirates cheer him on and toast him with grog.

THIRD 7,500 WORDS:

1. Suzie vows to destroy Harry and his band of pirates, and agrees to join up with the ninjas. They retreat to the dojo to regroup. When they arrive, they find the hideout under attack! The teachers and Planned Parenthood have banded together, with pitchforks and slogans, and are out for ninja blood. How will these ninjas rescue their budget by the end of the first week of school?!
2. Suzie steps in front of the bloodthirsty crowd of pitchfork-bearing women and makes a speech to them, stating she's joined the ninjas and seen Harry on board the pirate ship. They have to join forces with the ninjas to defeat him and get their schools back on track!
3. Harry calls a press conference to announce he's running for President! OH NO!! Tries to claim he's good for America, based on his track record in Texas. Outside Austin, no one knows about the recent pirate/ninja skirmishes, and the press eats up Harry's lies about his record.
4. The ninjas/protestors go on a guerrilla attack, filming tapes of the skirmishes and covertly infiltrating the pirate organization to get the brutality on tape, releasing video to the local news media, which is then picked up by corporate headquarters in NYC and LA. Scenes of the violence are broadcast throughout the U.S., though most still believe Harry to be a “good ol' boy.” Huh?
5. Harry is furious and has pirates walking the plank. MUTINY!
6. Pirates confront ninjas at their lair: They want to join the ninjas against Harry!

FINAL 7,500 WORDS:

1. How will they defeat Harry? His Holy Rollers are out in force defending him. He has lots of money, armed bodyguards, a religious angle that the south eats up. He's the most powerful dude in the state, and angling to become the most powerful dude in America. HELP!
2. One of the pirates comes forward with his story: all this time they've been stealing from the rich to give back to the rich. He wants to turn over a new leaf and resign from the life of violence. He's always envisioned himself as a Robin Hood, and wants to make good on this idea. They divert the funds from Harry's coffers to a new ninja-pirate joint account in Switzerland!
3. Harry's Holy Rollers start staging pray-ins which the deeply religious south respond to positively. But something else is happening: subliminal messages from a secret weapon are affecting even protestors within a 5-mile radius of the pray-ins! Everyone starts to believe Harry's lies! The campaign is gathering steam, and the effects are happening even outside of Texas as the ray is beamed by satellite into homes across America! This is clearly how he's remained in power for 10+ years, but how can they stop him?! Ninjas and pirates alike are falling prey to the machine's evil powers of rhetoric, and the group is splintering. HELP!!
4. Master Gray steps forward to help vanquish this particular foe, teaching them all some rudimentary mind-control rebuffs via meditation and a power mantra that each can use to defeat the ray. They move into the final battle armed with these powers and formidable tae kwon do skills, as well as piratical firepower. Gray is an old political foe of Harry's; they fight to the death! Gray dies, and Suzie jumps in to

avenge his death! Harry has powerful bad-juju, and Suzie is conflicted about killing, given her pacifist beliefs; nonviolence is the only way to resist aggression! Seems momentarily defeated under the weight of this conflict, but as Harry moves in for the kill, she unleashes a hail of bullets from her concealed weapon! Straight to the brainpan! Harry is revealed as a robotic automaton, but who's been piloting this machine?!? [Reveal? Or save for sequel?]

5. Having defeated the evil foe, Suzie returns to the dojo and founds a new charter school for teaching future generations of patriots both their history and their tae kwon do.

NOTE: When you're working with your outline, you can also use the highlighting tool to help keep track of your progress. For instance, I like to highlight the sections I've finished in **red**, the ones I'm working on now in **yellow**, and the ones I still have to complete in **green**. It makes it really easy to see where I'm at and what I need to do next!