**Persuasive Essay Structure**

1st Paragraph – Introduction/Opening Part (3-5 sentences)

* Lead sentence/Opening strategies – how you start your essay and get your readers engaged (p 206)
* **Thesis Statement** – last sentence of your introduction, main idea of your essay: *states your specific topic and gives your focus, which states the three reasons you will explain in your essay* (p 204)

2nd Paragraph – Body Paragraph/Middle Part (5-7 sentences)

* **Topic Sentence:** Reason #1 of why you believe the way you believe; must match thesis, (p 126)
* Two supporting details/examples that support your reason; be sure to stay on topic and be descriptive, p 127
* Utilize transitions – p 207
* Closing sentence – p 138

3rd Paragraph – Body Paragraph/Middle Part (5-7 sentences)

* **Topic Sentence**: Reason #2 of why you believe the way you believe; must match thesis
* Two supporting details/examples that support your reason; be sure to stay on topic and be descriptive, p 127
* Utilize transitions – p 207
* Closing sentence – p 138

4th Paragraph – Body Paragraph/Middle Part (5-7 sentences)

* **Topic Sentence**: Reason #3 of why you believe the way you believe; must match thesis
* Two supporting details/examples that support your reason; be sure to stay on topic and be descriptive, p 127
* Utilize transitions – p 207
* Closing sentence – p 138

5th Paragraph – Conclusion/Closing Part (3-4 sentences)

* First sentence restates the thesis in different words
* Closing Strategies - conclude essay by stating the importance and significance of the topic (p 206)