

## Persuasive Essay Structure (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA)

### Thoughts to keep in mind:

**The Prompt** - Tells you your writing task. You **MUST** decode the prompt for both your audience and purpose for writing to stay on topic.

**Audience** - The prompt will refer to a specific audience like "your principal" or "your peers at school." Your choice of language (diction) will depend upon your audience.

**Purpose** - The prompt will explain or refer to the topic you are to persuade others about. **YOU MUST STAY ON TOPIC** to score well.

**Counter Argument** - You **MUST** include the opposing viewpoint somewhere in your essay.

**Outline/Pre-Write** - **ORGANIZE** your writing structure **FIRST!**

### Paragraph #1 - Opening Statements

**Attention Grabber** - This draws your audience in as either an interrogative or exclamatory sentence (a question "?" or strong statement "!")

**Thesis** - Your clear viewpoint ("I disagree with", "I support", "I am for") on the writing task; includes a rephrase of the prompt.

**Counter Argument** - A "However," statement briefly showing the opposite viewpoint.

**General Overview of the Essay** - Transition statement into the main body paragraph; briefly explains the general logic behind your position.

### Paragraph #2 - The Main Body (Evidence and Logic) of Your Essay

**Topic Sentence** - Your viewpoint, which includes your logic about your position.

**Concrete Detail** - A "For example," statement stating your first fact or example supporting your viewpoint.

**Commentary** - A "This means that", "This proves that", or "In my opinion," statement, which shows your logical opinion of how that fact supports your argument.

**Concrete Detail** - A "For example," statement, stating your second fact or example supporting your viewpoint.

**Commentary** - A "This means that", "This proves that", or "In my opinion," statement, which shows your logical opinion of how that fact supports your argument.

**Transition Counter Argument** - This statement should strongly "bash" the opposing viewpoint with your strong commentary leading in to your conclusion.

### Paragraph #3 - Strong Concluding Statements (The Wrap Up)

**Rephrase of Thesis** - A stronger, more emotional rephrasing of your thesis.

**Details Summary** - A summary of your evidence that you have shown.

**Concluding Logic/Call to Action** - Your strong, logical opinion asking for the audience to take action on your issue.