SONG STRUCTURE

Songs have a lot of different structures to them and certain genres follow certain formats/formulas. Below is a glossary of terms for these structured elements of a song.

Reference link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxyrXqBQEpE

What is an intro? "The introduction establishes melodic, harmonic, and/or rhythmic material related to the main body of a piece". They establish the basics of what the song's about to make a connection to the listener.

What is a chorus? The chorus contains the main message of the song. Gives broad emotional details, summarizing the narrative of the song.

What is a verse? The first verse sets up the theme of the song, with the last line offering a natural progression to the chorus. The second verse reveals new details and is followed by the chorus again. Verses give concrete details to songs.

What is a bridge? The bridge must be different from the verse, musically and lyrically, and offer a reason why the chorus should be repeated.

What is an outro? Outros are strange things...There’s nothing really unique about an outro versus other elements of your song besides it being the end of the road for your song. What I mean is this: you can repeat your intro, chorus, or a refrain as an outro, or you can choose to add something similar to a bridge (with an instrumental solo), for instance: Mirror your intro (i.e. make it identical, just flipped so everything's opposite to your actual intro). You can also repeat your chorus - or a refrain - over and over as you fade out to silence. Create a solo (for an instrument or vocal), which is similar to bridges...even choosing to fade out from that, or lead into another song.