

THE IDEA STRUCTURE

Follow along with the video on creating an idea structure and a says/does outline.

Good Afternoon! Welcome to today's session, where we will be discussing The Idea Structure and Says/Does Outlining. This is the **second** in the Note-Taking and Visual Mapping Video Series. Let's dive in!

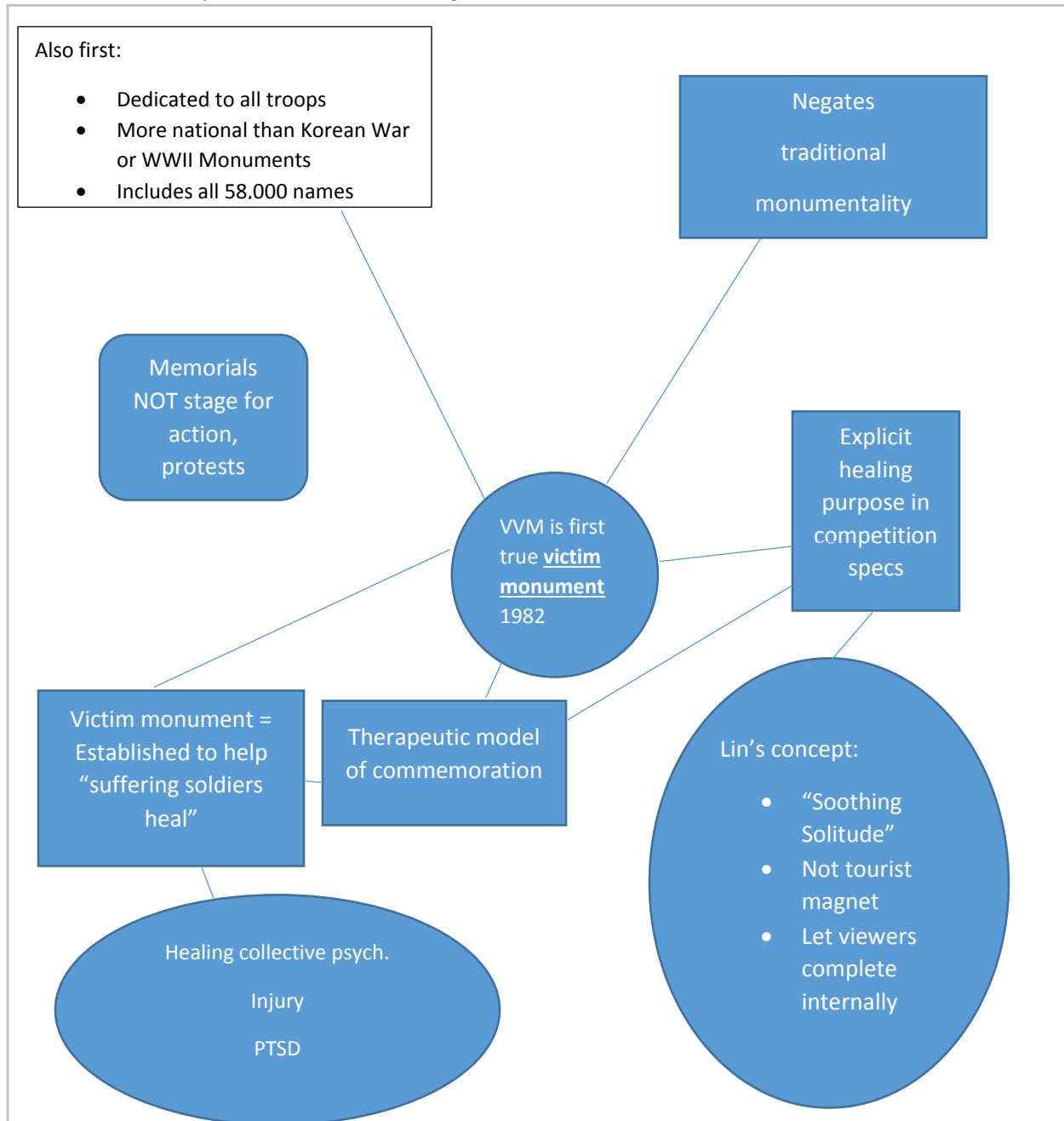
What the Idea Structure is, and how we create one:

The purpose, firstly, of an Idea Structure, is to:

- Look at how a text works as a whole, enabling you to distinguish main points from subordinate ones.
- Aid in understanding how a text establishes relationships among those primary and secondary ideas.

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Here is what a completed Idea Structure might look like:



Note that the main argument, which is that the “Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the first true victim monument, built in 1982,” is centered in the page, and is circled.

Secondary and tertiary ideas are then connected to that main argument via arrows.

Other important information appears in the rectangle at the top left of the page.

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Now to the second half of our Video, creating a Says/Does Outline:

This particular system of outlining enables you to extend your understanding of what a text or visual image “says” into how it is working - what it “does” – at the micro level.

Let me explain. A “Says Statement” summarizes the content of a stretch of text (a sentence, a paragraph, or a group of paragraphs). A “Does Statement” sums up how that particular stretch of text functions within the whole text (by describing, explaining, or arguing, for example). After all, asking yourself what you want to **do** next in your own writing will help you figure out what to **say** next!

A “Does Statement” should not repeat content but should focus instead on the **purpose** or **function** of that content. Three examples of “Does” statements are as follows:

1. “Offers an anecdote to illustrate previous point.”
2. “Introduces a new reason for adopting policy.”
3. “Evaluates statistical evidence.”

Below is a table of verbs which should help you create a “Does Statement:”

Adds	Evaluates	Proposes
Analyzes	Explains	Qualifies
Argues	Expresses	Questions
Asks	Extends	Quotes
Cites	Generalizes	Reasons
Compares	Illustrates	Rebuts
Connects	Informs	Reflects
Continues	Interprets	Repeats
Contradicts	Introduces	Speculates
Contrasts	Lists	Suggests
Demonstrates	Narrates	Summarizes
Describes	Offers	Supports
Details	Opposes	Synthesizes
Dramatizes	Predicts	Traces
Elaborates	Presents	Uses

We hope these two additional strategies help you to do the work of recording notes on and understanding the texts you encounter. Thank you for taking the time to watch this second instructional video on Note-taking and Visual Mapping. We look forward to next time!

References:

B. J., V. A., & A. G. (2002). *Reading rhetorically: A reader for writers*. New York, NY: Longman.