

## Lesson Plan

### Supporting an Idea

**Book:** *National Memorial for Peace and Justice*

**Series:** Visit and Learn

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students practice summarizing a text and identifying an idea's supporting points.

### Supplies

- *National Memorial for Peace and Justice*
- Whiteboard
- Whiteboard markers

### Before the Activity

Read *National Memorial for Peace and Justice* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Pass out a pencil and a sheet of paper to each student. On the whiteboard, write the following five bullet points:

- Topic Sentence: The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is a powerful monument that can make visitors feel sadness, regret, and hopefulness.
- Sadness
- Regret
- Hopefulness
- Concluding sentence

### Activity

The author of *National Memorial for Peace and Justice* concludes the book by writing about how the memorial makes visitors feel. Ask a student to read the last two paragraphs of the book (pp. 26–27). The author explains that visitors can feel many different emotions. These emotions include sadness, regret, and hopefulness.

In this activity, students will write one paragraph that summarizes the book and provides support for the author's statement. The paragraph will have five sentences and follow the outline on the board. Students will use the topic sentence on the board to start their paragraph. Then students should write three sentences explaining why the memorial makes visitors feel the emotions described in the bullet points. Finally, students should write a concluding sentence. Students may look back through the book to help find evidence and facts to support their paragraph. Collect students' paragraphs at the end of class.

**Evaluation**

Using the following sample paragraph, give students 1 point for each of the supporting sentences on sadness, regret, and hopefulness. Give another 1 point for a concluding sentence. Students may receive up to 4 points.

**Sample Paragraph:**

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is a powerful monument that can make visitors feel sadness, regret, and hopefulness. Visitors walk under monuments that represent hanged Black people, which can make them feel very sad. Some visitors might regret that they had not learned about lynchings near their communities before. However, visitors also feel hopeful for the future since the victims are now being remembered. Although the memorial can be painful to see, it is important to use the memories of victims to stop lynchings from happening again.

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.1, 4.2, 4.8).