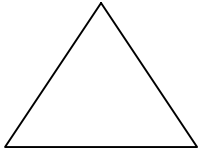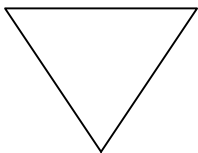# Interpretive Strategies for Program Organization

Consider how the following strategies for structuring an interpretive product could help to enhance access to the resource meanings being interpreted. See if you can identify any of these strategies being used in the presentations of your co-workers.

Specific to Broad
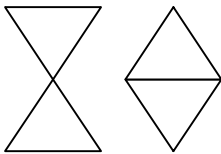
Individual example to broader encompassing idea

Example: specific acorn to oak tree to all trees to forest conservation

Broad to Specific
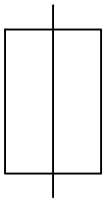
General encompassing idea to specific example

Example: reverse of above
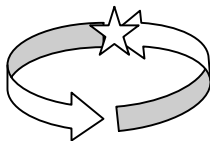
Hourglass

Combination of the above ideas linked

Begin with broad, general idea and narrow to specific example and then bring out to the general idea again.

Linear

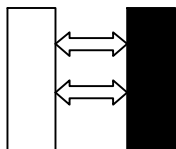*A line of organization from point X to point Y, a segment of a larger construct*

Organizing a program along a segment of time, space, or geography
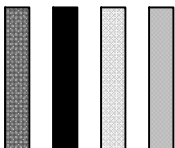
Cyclic

Circular sequence that may begin at any point and return to the origin points in the process

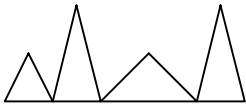Examples: water cycle, cultural trend cycles, life cycle

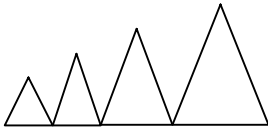## Parallel

Encourages judgment or decision within visitor

Multiple Points of View

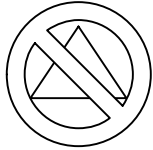*Comparison of many ideas for decision making (or understanding sensitive issues)*

Variations on a Theme
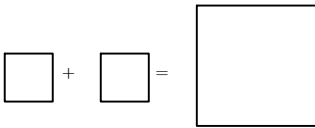*Seemingly random yet related ideas produce understanding of a larger meaning*

Progression
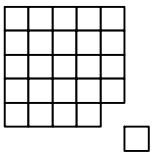*Sequence of events or ideas that logically flow or build upon the previous*

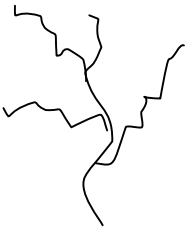## Debunking
Negating common myth
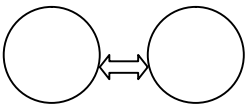
Sum of Parts
1+1+1= more than you think!

Puzzle
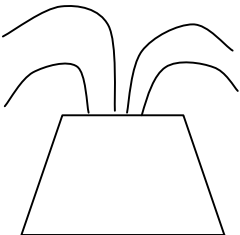*Revelation of larger meaning by examining how parts fit together*

River/Watershed/Dendritic
Less structured convergence of related meanings

Wheel
Two main ideas are juxtaposed and the relationship between the two is presented

Volcano
Pull it all together at the conclusion for a big wow!