

Leaders Like Us: Shadowing Week

A Reflection Journal can be a valuable tool for middle and senior school leaders during a shadowing week in a school. It allows an opportunity to capture your thoughts, observations, and insights. Here are some possible questions to consider for your reflective journal:

- What were my initial expectations and goals for this shadowing week, and how have they evolved throughout the experience?
- Describe the school environment and culture. What were the first impressions, and how did they change over the week?
- What were some of the key observations or moments that stood out to me during my time in the school?
- How did the teachers and staff interact with the students, and how did this impact the learning environment?
- Reflect on any challenges or surprises I encountered during the shadowing week. How did I respond to these situations?
- What insights did I gain into the daily routines and responsibilities of school leaders, teachers, and other staff members?
- Describe any interactions or conversations I had with students. What did I learn from these interactions?
- How did the school's approach to curriculum, instruction, and assessment align with my own beliefs about education?
- What strategies or practices did I observe that I believe could be beneficial to implement in my own school or leadership role?
- Reflect on any moments where I saw effective leadership in action. What qualities or behaviours did these leaders exhibit?
- Were there any areas where I felt the school could improve or innovate? How might I approach these improvements if I were in this leadership position?
- How has this shadowing experience influenced my perspective on education and school leadership?
- Consider any personal growth or development that occurred during the week. In what ways have I grown as a leader or educator?
- What questions or topics would I like to explore further after this experience? What areas of school leadership interest me the most?

Summarise the main takeaways from the shadowing week and outline any action steps you plan to take based on what you've learned.