



## Photo Journal Prompts

It is well-documented that **reflection deepens learning** and is an important part of teacher training. One way to reflect and document your reflection is by keeping a **photo journal during your school internship** abroad. This will give you another way to remember your time in the host school and host country, and can help you reflect on what was important to you, and why.

Be on the lookout for concrete things you can photograph that encapsulate what you're learning. For example, perhaps a **classroom was set up** in a way you had never seen before and you found it worked well. You might take a picture of the set-up and include it in your journal. But please don't stop there: **make notes** and say **why you think it was effective, what it made possible, and maybe why it is so different from the classrooms at home**. This can help you to think about what priorities and goals you have as a teacher, as well as what some underlying differences in music education between your home country and the host country might be. The **photos do not have to have only positive connotations**. If you want to document learning a hard lesson, or something you found unpleasant, that's of course also fine.

Some ideas to get you started:

- Places in the school: room set-ups, instruments, special equipment or facilities, common areas, students working on projects or in ensemble rehearsals, teachers teaching, particular teaching materials, etc.
- Cultural places: concert halls where you enjoyed a meaningful concert, art museums, etc.
- Around the city: something on your commute to school, a park you enjoyed, etc.

... and anything else that was significant to you.

You might want to take many photos to remember your time, but these will not all necessarily belong in the photo journal. In your photo journal you will want to include visual documentation of people, places, or events that were particularly significant during your school internship abroad. Only you can decide which photos these should be.

Your photo journal – meaning your selected photos and the notes you've written about them – can be formatted however you like, but it's best to **keep everything in one place** so you can look through it easily and don't have to search for individual components.

One thing to keep in mind when keeping a photo journal is that different **schools have different rules about photography**. It is your responsibility to find out what the **policy** is at your host school. Please **ask your mentor teacher explicitly** about the school's photo policy, and exercise good judgment and sensitivity when photographing others. Please **refrain from posting pictures of others on social media without their permission**.

This photo journal can help you to reflect both alone and together with your mentor teacher and/or university advisor, and will hopefully serve as a **memory keeper** of your school internship abroad that you can look back on for many years to come.

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