



Voice Memo Prompts

A reflective journal for music education students participating in a school internship abroad

General note: It is very important that you reflect on your experiences during your school internship abroad. Each reflection should take no more than four to five minutes, and can be recorded daily, or at least every other day – a minimum of three times a week.

You can record your thoughts in a reflective journal or on a recording device to listen back to later. If recording, you might want to make some notes beforehand, or you can just speak freely.

If you need some help getting started, here are some things you could think about:

- What were my most memorable impressions since my last voice memo?
- What was particularly interesting about them? What have I learned about myself as a music teacher?

Below are a series of questions that might help you reflect more deeply on your SIA experiences:

- Are my initial SIA expectations being met? If so, or if not, in what ways?
- Are there similarities or differences between what I already know about being a teacher and my SIA experience? (In thinking about this, you may also reflect on your developing teacher identity.)
- Are there similarities or differences between music teaching and learning in my own context and in the SIA experience? (In thinking about this, you may also reflect on your developing teaching philosophy.)
- What knowledge and skills am I bringing into the SIA from my own context (subject-specific knowledge, musicking skills, personal wisdom, technical expertise)?

If you are on an SIA together with another student teacher, you may additionally ask yourself:

- What did I learn from my fellow student teachers as “peers” and what did they learn from me?
- How does having “student teachers as peers” support me during my internship? (where applicable)

For long-term SIA (3+ weeks), you may additionally consider responding to the following questions:

- What has changed or shifted for me during my internship? In what ways has this changed? Please specify the reasons.
- How have the knowledge and skills I brought into the SIA from my own context (subject-specific knowledge, personal wisdom, technical expertise) changed as I applied them in the new context?
- What knowledge, skills, impressions and values will I take back to my home institution? In what ways will they be useful back home?
- Looking back at the start of my student teaching experience, in which specific areas have I grown the most, and how can I continue to improve in these areas?

Final note:

- As the SIA reaches its end, what are the key lessons regarding becoming a music teacher that you will take with you?
- What did you contribute to your SIA that you are particularly proud of?