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Whether or not one aspires to acquire a principal position or not, it is imperative that assistant principals develop and refine their identity as a leader. Over the course of each day principals encounter situations that require them to take actions (some are quick responses while others are carefully considered over long periods of time) that will somehow impact the people within our learning community. Regardless of how much input we have contributed to the decision(s), it's important for AP's to allow some time for introspection. How would you have handled that situation? Would you have done the same thing? What were the consequences of the decision? What were the benefits? The totality of these reflections over the course of one's tenure as an AP will only help to solidify one's own unique leadership identity. No two leaders will ever be exactly the same. In the end we will borrow a little bit from different people to define who we are as a leader. Sometimes we might work with someone who shows us "what we never want to do". Those lessons can be just as powerful provided we are open to treating the situation as a learning experience to ultimately shape our leadership identity.