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| My trading journal  Keeping track |
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# One of the important things with trading or with any type of investment is to keep track of investment decisions and also to learn from the things that you do - both the good and bad decisions.

# This journal activity will require you to keep track of the decisions that you make while you are playing the ASX Schools Sharemarket Game.

# It will include taking note of why you have chosen to buy particular companies; why you sold; what strategy you chose and whether you kept to your plan. If you are in a team - how did you work as a group; what mistakes did you make and what lessons did you learn etc.

**Fundamental analysis:**

(see Quick start lesson 2: Company research for additional help)

Choose one or two of the companies you have chosen to invest in.

**1. The company’s story**

* + 1. What does the company do?

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* + 1. What does it sell?

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* + 1. How long has it been in business?

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* + 1. Who are the customers?

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* + 1. Who are the competitors?

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**2. The company numbers**

* + 1. Is the company growing?

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* + 1. What does it sell?

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* + 1. Have costs been rising or falling?

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* + 1. Does it have a lot of debt?

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* + 1. Are they paying dividends to shareholders?

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**Technical analysis:**

* + 1. What sector is this company in?

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* + 1. Include a chart of the company at the time you were looking to buy.

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* + 1. Include a chart comparing this company with either its sector or the All Ordinaries. How closely does it follow the movement of the sector or All Ordinaries?

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* + 1. How has the company performed over the past 6 – 12 months?

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* + 1. What is the trading volume like for this company – do you have any concerns with regard to volume?

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* + 1. What were your main reasons for investing in this company?

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# On the day you bought this share:

* + 1. What was the previous day’s close?

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* + 1. Highest (buying) bid and lowest (selling) offer recorded on the day you bought.

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* + 1. The price you bought at – was it an ‘at market’ or ‘limit’ order? Were you happy with the price you paid?

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# Company performance

* + 1. How did this company perform over the period of the Game?

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* + 1. Include a chart of its performance during the Game period.

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* + 1. Did you receive a dividend? How much did this add to your portfolio?

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* + 1. Do you think it was a good investment?

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**The Economy**

* + 1. Was there any thing that happened in the economy or globally that affected the sharemarket over the time you were trading?

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* + 1. How did you react to this?

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* + 1. Did you change anything as a result of this?

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**Game plan**

1. **What was your Game plan? Give an overview of your plan.**
   * 1. Include: Why did you choose this plan?

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* + 1. Was risk management a part of your strategy – did you tend to be aggressive or defensive?

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* + 1. Did you invest in a number of sectors? Which ones? Why these ones?

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**2. Did you stick to your plan?**

* + 1. If yes, were you happy with the end result?

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* + 1. If no, what made you change your plan? Did it help?

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**3. Would you do things any differently if you were to play the Game again?**

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**4. If you played the Game in a team – how did you make your decisions?**

* + 1. Was this effective?

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* + 1. What would you do differently next time?

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