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Job Shadow Reflection

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**My Day at La Sierra Military School**

 For my Job shadow I choose to job shadow Mr. Barrera he is a teacher at La Sierra Military School. When most people hear military school they automatically think three things troubled kids, loud commanders, and a strict place that allows no fun. I was no different but let me be the first to admit I was wrong some of the experiences that took place at La Sierra change my view not only on military schools but on life.

 People think that military school are places parent send their kids when they cant control them. For the most part that statement is true; But some kids choose this route because they already know they will go to the military after school. Some kids are thrown in to military school by their parents that are in the military. People think just because they go to a military school they are different but what I experienced was a group of facility that held the youth around them to higher standards. They expect the best out of each student that crosses there path they aren’t just allowed to “get by” rather it be in the classroom out on optical course even on the pull up bar they expect to see your best on a day-to-day basis.

 This was evident in every facility member from the Sargent to the after school teachers. As I interviewed with Mr. Barrerra he just gave me some insight on his past and going through the struggles of his everyday life and how he felt it was his time to not only give back to the community but give back to the youth. Mr. Barrera is a very quiet man but he knew the name of every cadet that walks through those gates. He had the respect of each and every one of them. When he walked in a class they acknowledged him and when he left the room their wasn’t and snide comments or inappropriate gestures made towards him you could tell he had earned the respect of these kids. All I could think about was that these were “troubled kids” and yet one man like Mr. Barrera showed us all that these kids are just what they are called kids and for the most part its okay to treat them like kids but sometimes they need to be treated like adults.

As for Sargent: “ “ he was a very intense man but just like Mr. Barrera he earned the respect of the cadets and they knew that he expected nothing but the best. At times you could see the soft man under the armor you could tell he was passionate about his job but this was because he knew his best would bring out the best in each cadet. If they weren’t lined up correctly he would be all over them like a cat on a mouse. But if they did something right he was willing to congratulate them. Sargent was not just a leader in the La Sierra Military school but he took more action in the community and coached with the local youth football program.

The most interesting thing that I learned about La Sierra Military School is that just like me and any other kid that goes to any school in Lindsay these cadets are just normal kids. I got a chance to sit back and watch them once school was over and what I saw was funny to me. I imagined I would see nothing but gangsters, and trouble makers at this military school. But what I got was your average kids I saw a group of kids grab a football to play some catch, I saw a group of kids sitting around texting playing with their phones, I even saw your after school PDA. The reason this was so funny to me is because these are all things you can see after school of any high school and yet people think its different at La Sierra because they are a military school.

Overall I feel this was a great experience for me because it helped open my eyes to not judge a book by its cover because La Sierra is a great school that is honestly no different from your average high school. I feel this will help me in my future because I would like to work with kids and now I know that this could be another option in my future job.