

The World According to Zach

Practical and Philosophical Advice from Me
(and a Few Others) to You!

Plato: Don't live in a cave of ignorance.

Aristotle: Cultivate virtues (good habits).
Squash your vices.

Marcus Aurelius: Focus on the things
you can control. Let go of the things you
can't.

Thomas Aquinas: Contemplate the origin
of the cosmos.

Descartes: Light a candle, turn down the lights, and surprise yourself with what you can accomplish with the power of your own mind.

David Hume: Be skeptical.

Kant: Be aware of the ways in which you are constructing your own reality.

Nietzsche: Be an individual. Don't be like the herd. *You* are the artistic creator of your own life story.

Foucault: Be aware of the hidden power relationships surrounding you.

Machiavelli: And use them to your advantage.

Wittgenstein: Learn to play the language
games you are already in—and create
new ones!

Heidegger: Throw yourself into a project
you care about with all your Being.

Camus: Contemplate suicide.

Sartre: Remember your power to
choose.

Kant: Keep your objectivity.

John Stuart Mill: Focus on the greater
good.

Lyotard: Be skeptical of grand
metanarratives—and don't be taken in by
them!

Baudrillard: Expose the artificial in the things you take for granted as reality.

Find the weak points and inconsistencies
in your own worldview, and try to
reconcile them.

Think about human nature and the
purpose of government.

Thoreau: Seek out transcendent
experiences every day.

Chalmers: Be amazed that you have a
mind at all. Don't be a zombie.

Clayton: Consider the emerging universe
unfolding around you.

On Free Will and Determinism: Be aware of the external factors guiding your actions. But don't be constrained by them. No excuses!

Learn some technology skills: web design, coding, programming, multimedia creation, etc.

Create something new.

Write poetry. Even bad poetry.

Invest 10 percent of your earnings in the stock market to retire as a millionaire.

Advice from Zach's Grandfather: Always
have a plan.

More Advice from Zach's Grandfather:
Use the turbochargers to get off the
ground.

Even *More* Advice from Zach's
Grandfather: Don't burn the candle at
both ends.

Improve your writing.

Don't take the world around you for granted. The world doesn't have to be the way it is today.

Create and leave a legacy for yourself,
and for future generations.

Feed the birds. It's good for them and
good for your soul.

Don't live somebody else's life.

Honor the past but look to the future.

Look up to the stars and dream, but don't
fall into a well.

Don't let history forget the people who
have meant the most to you.

Every academic discipline is incomplete,
with more to learn, create, and discover.

Be a generalist. Don't over-specialize.

Forgive but don't forget.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Experts
LOVE to help and are waiting to hear
from you.

Break the rules. Ignore standards you
don't agree with.

Don't settle for mere knowledge.
Seek wisdom.

Tenacity and focus matter more than skill. But keep improving your skill.

Be a lifelong student.
But pass down what you have learned.
Teach and mentor others.

Have strong ideals but don't be an idealist. Bring your ideas into reality.

Be kind. The world needs it.

Don't be a pushover.

Don't be a doormat.

Sun-Tzu: Keep your friends close but
your enemies closer.

Be comfortable with being alone.

Be comfortable being with others.

John Rhys-Davies: Make others feel comfortable. Say, “Good morning!”

Read to learn something new.

Be a romantic. (Trust me on this one.)

Take your life into your own hands once
in a while.

Hike up the tallest mountains. Literally.

Learn Latin and Greek.

Read Homer to understand human
nature.

L.M. Montgomery: Tomorrow is always
fresh, with no mistakes in it (yet).

Don't settle for second best.

Change. Don't get stuck in your ways.

Doctors and bartenders both get the same two customers: the living and the dying.

Take a train. Go on a journey. Find
yourself.

Follow through. Meet your commitments.
Do what you say you are going to do.

Surpass your teachers and do even more amazing things in life than they have done.

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