

What is an Aphorism?

1. Aphorisms are short, brief sayings. These are similar to:
 - proverbs
 - morals
 - slogans on t-shirts
2. They can be divided up into various topics and categories.
 - altruistic saying: altruism—concern for the general well-being of others
 - cynical sarcasm: cynicism—skepticism towards another’s actions or thoughts
 - scientific fact
 - religious parable
 - advice about successes in life or how to avoid failures
3. Aphorisms are often clever or witty sayings that define or explain some aspect about a selected topic.
4. People often use these for speeches or to spark general discussions and debate.

In-Class Exercise

1. Students form two or three rows.
2. Each student recites aphorism from Poor Richard’s Almanac then attempts to toss paper ball into thrash.
3. If student makes basket he/she can sit down, but if he/she misses, then they have to go to the end of the line and repeat.
4. All twenty aphorisms will be recited.

When creating your own aphorism, construct a t-chart. On one column list topics related to one subject. In the remaining column, list possible thoughts or philosophies that you could connect with your main ideas.

Subject: Education	Resulting Commentary / Observation
Knowledge	Should available for everyone.
Teaching	It never stops.
Teachers	Learn from their students.
Students	Need to learn basic rules for survival in their chosen careers.
Classes	Rigorous, time consuming.
School	Seems never ending.

Resulting Aphorism:

Education is a never-ending, ever present process, a rite of passage.

Aphorisms for “Surviving High School”

You have just read through a list of Benjamin Franklin’s aphorisms from “Poor Richard’s Almanac.” I want you to create a list of your own aphorisms on the subject of surviving high school. Five possible subjects have been underlined below. You can make your own of course.

- What advice would you give to a freshman coming into high school?
- What kind of materials should new students make sure they always carry with them?
- How should they handle unruly teachers?
- What types of classes should they sign up to take?
- How should they handle their time? How should they deal with time management?

EXAMPLE: *Always bring two pencils, for one is sure to break.*

Don’t procrastinate, most teachers will not accept work late!

In journals, create a t-chart breakdown of your ideas, then create a list of at least 5 unique aphorisms.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____