

How to Make Better Decisions¹

Building wealth requires an enormous amount of decision making ability. If you approach every major decision with the same decision making procedure, you'll find that decisions become a lot easier to make. Here are the steps I take when making a critical decision:

- Describe the primary goal. What am I really trying to accomplish?
- Identify all the issues related to this goal
- Gather all the information necessary
- List all the alternatives to choose from. For example, doing nothing may be an alternative
- List the pros and cons of each alternative
- Identify the alternative that best achieves your goal in the least amount of time with the least amount of time
- Use the answers to prioritize the alternatives and select the best alternatives

If your decision involves another decision in the past, you might want to consider using the same strategy I mentioned earlier in the book regarding sell decisions. It's called zero-based thinking. Ask yourself this question, "Knowing what you know now, would you have made the same decision in the past?" If the answer is no, you may want to reconsider your current situation.

¹ The Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting Rich, Larry Waschka, p. 302, ISBN 0-02-861343-0