

20+ Razors and Rules that simplify decisions



Sahil Bloom + Sachin Ramje

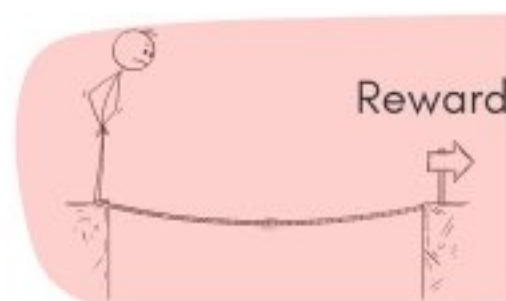
The Smart Friends Razor

The passions of the smartest people in your circles are a looking glass into the future.



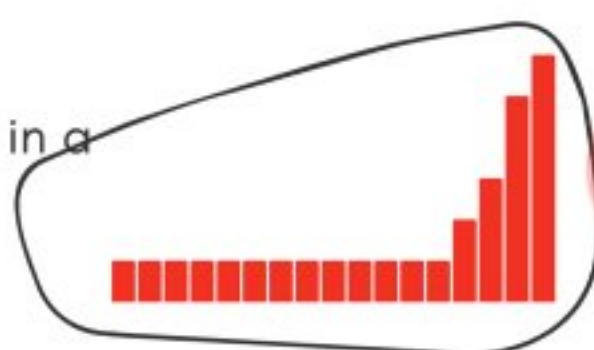
The Man in the Arena Razor

When faced with two paths, choose the path that puts you in the arena—choose the path with real skin in the game.



The Serendipity Razor

Your daily habits can put you in a position where "luck" is more likely to strike.



The Rare Opportunity Razor

There is a rare class of opportunities that the average person will get 0 to 1 chances at in their lifetime. If you get some, jump at it.



The Narrative Fallacy Razor

Humans are storytelling creatures—we weave together sequences of events to identify cause-and-effect when the reality is just luck.



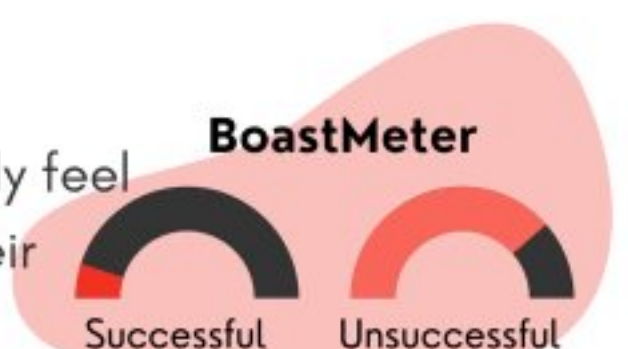
The Opinion Razor

Opinions are earned, not owed. If you can't state the opposition's argument clearly, you haven't earned an opinion.



The Boasters Razor

Truly successful people rarely feel the need to boast about their success.



Hitchens' Razor

What can be asserted without evidence can also be dismissed without evidence.



The "Look the Part" Razor

If forced to choose between two options of seemingly equal merit, choose the one that doesn't look the part.



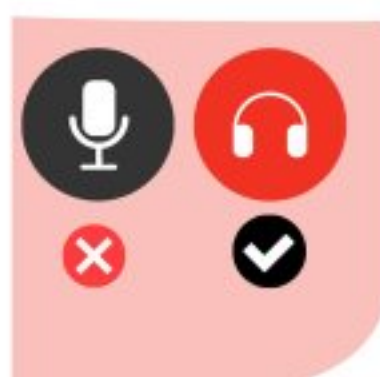
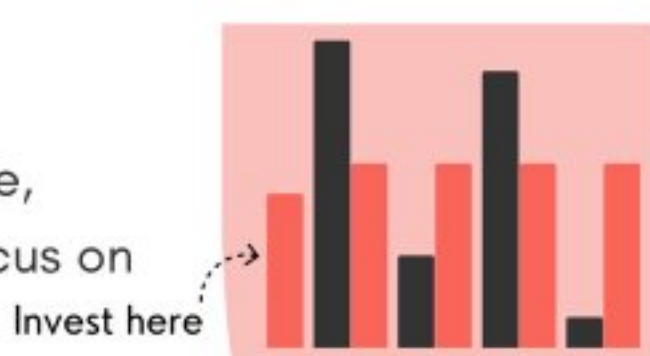
The Optimist Razor

When choosing who to spend time with, prioritize spending more time with optimists.



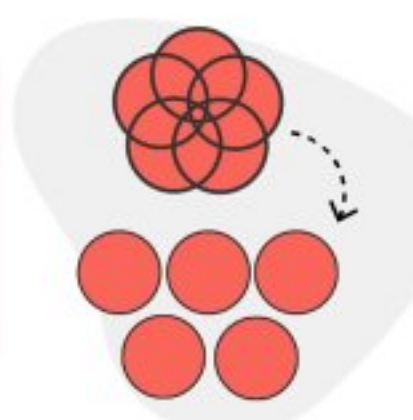
The "What Stays the Same" Razor

When building for the future, focus on the constants—focus on what stays the same.



The Rooms Razor

If you have a choice between entering two rooms, choose the room where you are more likely to be the dumbest one in the room. Once inside, talk less and listen more.



The Feynman Razor

Complexity and jargon are often used to mask a lack of deep understanding. If you can't explain it to a 5-year-old, you don't really understand it.



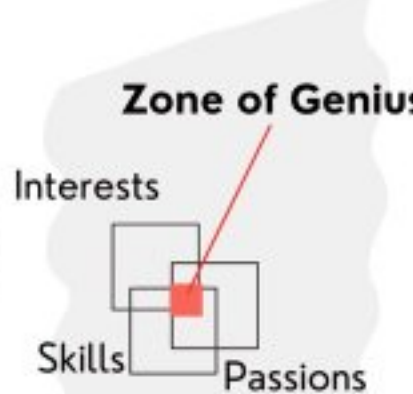
The Uphill Decision Razor

When faced with two options, choose the one that's more difficult in the short-term.



The Buffett Reputation Razor

Your reputation is built over decades, but it's made of glass, not stone.



The Time Billionaire Razor

When choosing between two paths, choose the path that places the highest appreciation on the value of your time. The path where you spend more time in your Zone of Genius.

The Worrying Razor

If someone says "don't worry about it"—you should probably worry about it.



Newton's Flaming Laser Sword

If something cannot be settled by experiment or observation, it is not worth debating.



The Grit Razor

If forced to choose between two people of equal merit, choose the one that has been punched in the face.



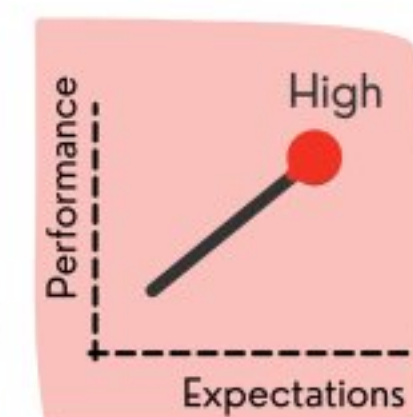
Hanlon's Razor

Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity.



The Pygmalion Razor

The Pygmalion Effect says that high expectations lead to high performance (and vice versa).



The Crazy Idea Razor

If someone proposes a crazy idea:
(1) Are they a domain expert?
(2) Are they reasonable? If yes on both, you should take the idea seriously, as it may be an asymmetric bet on the future.

