
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin Summary PDF Cheatsheet — GrowthSummary.com

? 1. Decide to Improve: Young Franklin made himself better through reading and self-reflection

From a very young age, Franklin pursued personal development, by spending most of his money on books. From reading, he learned to avoid direct argument like Socrates, eat more healthy vegetarian meals like Tryon, and become a better writer by copying the best magazine articles.

?? 2. Risk Adventure: Teenage Franklin grew in maturity by leaving his hometown

At 17 years old, Franklin left to Philadelphia. The boat journey was miserable, he had little money, and knew nobody. Yet he soon found work and built up a circle of friends in a “club of mutual improvement” called the Junto.

?? 3. Work Industrious: Franklin laboured long hours at his new printing-house business

At 22 years old, Franklin launched his own printing-house. He began publishing a newspaper, pamphlets and books that gave him public influence. He often worked from early morning until almost midnight. He avoided leisure except for reading books 1-2 hours daily. Later on, his business would allow him the freedom to greatly impact the politics of America and science of electricity.

? 4. Strive for Perfection: Franklin created a self-help method to build virtues into his character

Franklin pursued moral perfection with a particular method. He wrote down a chart in his journal, with 13 rows representing 13 virtues he wanted to live, and 7 columns for the days of the week. Using this chart for accountability, over time he became better at embodying virtues like moderation, order and frugality.

?? 5. Make Your World: Franklin shaped the city around him with public projects

Over his life, Franklin helped organize many projects in Philadelphia, including the first library, academy, hospital and fire company. He used writing to build public support, then proposed the projects in the Assembly or gathered voluntary subscriptions.

?? 6. Drive Political Change: The American Revolution, encouraged by Franklin, was a response to unfairness

Franklin actively drove political change to make his society more good and fair. He served in the Pennsylvania government for decades, writing many new laws. He played a key role in America's Independence, feeling strongly that being ruled from overseas by the English King's was unfair.

This is just a sample!

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