TWWB · APPLIED WISDOM

Buy Yourself Room

Borrowed from a conversation with Ryan Schrope. The Wisdom We Borrow with Ashton Palmer.

Your 5-line game plan

The one fixed cost that would buy me the most breathing room: _____

The one small result I can produce on the side in the next 30 days: _____

Who I want to be able to see that result: _____

My whiteboard (what I'm working on, the time, the money, whether I enjoy it): _____

The one thing that gets my full focus for 90 days: _____

Lower your costs to buy yourself room.

Ryan and Haley didn't move into a truck because they were broke. They did it so one bad month couldn't sink them. Before that, when Ryan left his W-2, their Airbnb was covering the entire mortgage. You don't need a truck.

Apply it: this week, write down your fixed monthly costs and find the one that would buy you the most breathing room if you cut it.

My fixed monthly costs: _____

The one that would buy the most breathing room if I cut it: _____

Build proof before you ask for belief.

Ryan's wife didn't fully understand what he was building. What she could see was him up at 4 a.m. doing the work, and then the results. Don't tell people what you think you can do. Show them.

Apply it: pick one small result you can produce on the side in the next 30 days, and show them.

The small result I can produce in the next 30 days: _____

Who I want to be able to see it: _____

Plant your flag.

At a whiteboard with a few friends, Ryan saw that almost all of his time was going to the business that made him miserable, and almost none to the one making the same money. So he picked one.

Apply it: list everything you're working on, the time it takes, the money it makes, and whether you enjoy it. Then give one thing your full focus for 90 days.

What I'm working on: _____

The time it takes, the money it makes, and whether I enjoy it: _____

The one thing that gets my full focus for 90 days: _____

Borrow This (5 minutes)

Take five minutes tonight to list everything you're working on, the time it takes, the money it makes, and whether you enjoy it. Circle the one you'd give your full focus. Tomorrow, give that one your first hour.

Try This Prompt

Paste this into your AI tool of choice and fill in the brackets.

Act as my applied-wisdom coach. I'll give you what I'm working on, my fixed monthly costs, a result I want to show, and how I spend my time. Use three rules: lower your costs to buy yourself room; build proof before you ask for belief; plant your flag.

Give me a one-page plan for this week with three short sections:
1. Room: looking at my fixed monthly costs, name the one cost that would buy the most breathing room if I cut or paused it. Do not tell me to quit a job, move out of my home, or take on debt.
2. Proof: name one small result I could produce on the side in the next 30 days that someone else could see, and tell me to get that result before I ask them to believe the plan.
3. Plant your flag: turn what I listed into a simple whiteboard (each item, the time it takes, the money it makes, and whether I enjoy it). Then name the one thing I should give my full focus for 90 days, and the first small step tomorrow.

Before you write the plan, ask me up to two questions if anything I gave you is unclear or if you need my available time or relevant constraints to suggest safe, feasible steps. If you ask questions, wait for my answers before writing the plan. Use only the personal facts I provide; don't invent details about me. If important information is still missing, say what you cannot determine rather than guess. Don't make promises about results or suggest changes to medical treatment, and don't tell me to quit a job, leave a relationship, or take on debt.

What I'm working on: [a few lines]
My fixed monthly costs: [a few lines, or "not sure"]
The result I want to show, and who I want to show it to: [a few lines]
How I spend my time, and what it makes: [a few lines]

Curiosity leads to wisdom, and wisdom leads to the life we want.