

When I was younger, I heard somewhere that George Washington had created a list of rules to follow in daily life. The list had a total of 110 rules, now known colloquially as George Washington's Rules of Civility and Decent behavior, and they primarily focus on benefiting other people. Growing up, this story of George Washington always stuck with me. Life is short, and we should all strive to spread as much positivity as possible. Below is a short list of some rules for daily life that I have been pondering.

1. **When you say you're going to do something, do it.** I believe that without his word, a man is nothing. This rule applies to things I tell others I will do as well as things I tell myself I'll do.
2. **Show up on time, always.** The trick is to just get there five minutes early every single time and wait. It's a very very minor inconvenience in return for being much more reliable.
3. **Listen to people.** I used to be bad at this and its never nice when people don't pay attention in conversation. So, when I have a conversation with someone, I try to make sure I'm really listening and not just waiting for my turn to speak. Its something I will always have to work on.
4. **Do things other people aren't doing.** This one is more of a heuristic than a rule, but I include it because it defines so many of my decisions. When making a choice, I will greatly favor the unknown over the known. If you are doing the same things that everyone else is doing, you will likely see the same outcomes. But when you venture into the unknown, and truly carve out your own path, that is when you find your calling.
5. **Always be learning something.** I always have at least one learning project going on at all times. Right now, I'm slowly learning how to play the piano. At some point, I will focus more on learning to speak Spanish. Learning something new is exciting and fulfilling, and you never know what passions you might discover.
6. **Don't lie, don't exaggerate, don't withhold information, don't mislead.** I saved this one for last because I think it is one of the most important. I have found myself in situations where I feel inclined to present something in a slightly different light. But you have to always tell the truth, and present things as accurately as possible. Always being forthright is something I strive to hold myself to under all circumstances.

- Joshua Greendyk