

TRS Associates: Blogs

Thomas Schneeweis

List of Blogs

The following Blogs (short for Weblog) provides personal observations on a wide range of subjects that I have written on for the over a period of the last almost twenty years. It is not that my experiences or observations in the period before the past two decades were of little import, it is just that I lived primarily in the Academic world which has (and as I found since) could be of little interest to those outside of that island. In the last twenty years, I spent more time off of the “Academic” island and on the ‘real world’ mainland.

Upon reflection what is most surprising to me is that the subjects discussed seem to reoccur on a regular basis such that comments from past periods can be of interest today. I wish to warn those who may take the time to review the various topics discussed, that there is risk in the reading. Some of the following have, I believe value, others less so. But all of them are at most one page long.

Unfortunately, one can never forecast how individuals may react to some of the comments. My hope is that some of the insights contain in these Blogs can be of help to others or at least may put a smile on someone’s face. As noted in most correspondence, the written word may not reflect my own ideas or those of any of my friends or foes and while I wrote the material, I am not responsible for any of the content or how that content is interpreted. God Speed.

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List of Blogs

Date

1. Financial BLOGs versus Financial BLOBs

Jan., 2021

Abstract: Financial Blogs have information transfer as their goal. Some of those BLOGs offer 'real' information while others act more like BLOBs. (BLOBs are just large amount of amorphous material attempting to take over the world (See the truly great 1958 movie titled "The BLOB")).

2. Why Yes Management?

Feb., 2021

Abstract: Every investor needs an intelligent path through a financial forest, Just as We believe that we could have even helped Alice get through her forest, as we helped many others over the past thirty years, to get through today's financial forest. Simply put, we are familiar with the new investment landscape and the path you may wish to take or may have to take to get through it.

3. Free Education – Worth the Price?

March, 2021

Abstract: . In short, despite their assertions, investment education and support are not 'free'. You may pay for it in other ways (e.g., the actual performance of their products or how the product fits your needs). In the future, just make sure you know what you really need and that you are working with those who can help to reach those needs.

4. Asset Allocation Simplified

April, 2021

Abstract: Investment management has evolved as investment markets, technology and regulation have forced changes in what is traded, how it is traded, and who packages and sells it. Unfortunately, even today many Registered Investment Advisors are locked into the past and recommend portfolios that do not reflect current market conditions or investment knowledge.

5. The Present Versus the Past

May, 2021

Abstract: . Moreover, firms change characteristics so quickly today, that the past performance of stocks or stock indices such as the S&P 500 may not reflect their composition or performance going forward.

6. Who is Who in Finance

June, 2021

Abstract: Now you may wish to just trust me, but here is the issue, having some sense of who was there at the start and why they were important makes the connection with the present interesting and in the least offers answer to Jeopardy questions. So, take any of the above names and do an internet search on them

7. Diversification: A Story of Where and When

July, 2021

Abstract: To find great diversifiers, you must find other assets such as market neutral investments and similar strategies that will perform differently when stocks or bonds have their highest or lowest returns and not when the returns are close to zero. Simply put, the 'Benefits of Diversification' is a story of where and when but it is also a story of Déjà Vu..

8. The Siri of Investments

August, 2021

Abstract: I went to my 'finance map' brother, better known as an investment advisor, and asked him where the app was. He cautioned me that one of the reasons it worked for driving Map directions is that East remained East, West remained West and most of the streets rarely changed. In finance, this is not so.

9. The Financial Clog

September, 2021

Abstract: The answer do not trade in markets that clog or don't trade during times where the flow is not equal. In short, your Uncle Bill the plumber knows more than he pretends to about investment markets.

10. Free Education

October, 2021

Abstract: The most beneficial the lunch the more it costs. You decide what you want and what you want to pay. To believe otherwise is a fool's errand.

11. Bestism in Education

November, 2021

Abstract: In the future, should there be an attempt to bring a broader set of students together regardless of their underlying qualities.

12. Differences in Society

December, 2021

Abstract: I cannot forecast the future but unless there is honest discussion (in education, in health, in job growth) that fails to take advantage of the benefits of a larger portfolio (a boarder set of assets in the financial world and a broader set of people in the real world) the solution set may be less than optimal.

13. Where From Here

January, 2022

Abstract: As a head of one of these Finance firms, it is not that women made less than men, in fact because of the competition they were often paid more then men, but given the relatively smaller percentage of women available for these higher paying jobs if one totaled the average wage for all women in business in general it was often lower than the average for men. Why? More women were in the lower paying 'management and marketing' jobs than in the high finance jobs

14. Financial Fiction

February, 2022

Abstract: The Vanguard article itself points out that the overall benefit of Financial Advisors may vary significantly depending on the client's circumstances. The following chart by a 'well know' Financial Advisor (Carl Richards), who uses figures to promote financial advice, reemphasizes that point. Your Advisor should not emphasize investment return but should help you determine those issues that are of real significance to you and focus on ways to control the risk surrounding those issues.

15. Financial Literacy

March, 2022

Abstract: There were a wide range of filters that could be applied to those taking the exam to get a sense of the extent of financial literacy. For those who are interested the report is available on the internet. The purpose of this short blog is to offer a brief oversight of the percent of various Americans by age, gender, education etc. who answered the set of 28 questions asked across a range of financial questions. First the good news, a portion of U.S. adults could answer at least 50% of the multiple choice questions correctly. Now the bad news, about half of the adults asked answered at least 50% of the questions incorrectly

16. Who Do you Trust

April, 2022

Abstract: The final determination comes down to a simple who do you trust – but with little knowledge of the investment area what should be the basis for this trust. One suggestion is just ask some hard questions. For example ask if the advisors uses not only traditional stocks and bonds (or mutual funds) and but newer financial forms. If they do not, move on.

17. Average is Best

May, 2022

Abstract: In fact, there are of course a number of other residents who believe that this focus on touching all students reflects an academic system that is willing to disadvantage the best at the benefit of the less skilled or less fortunate. They may not support the current efforts at widespread educational equality. Others see the emphasis on creating a more average set of norms as creating a more average set of students who learn to live and learn together without the historical animosity that search for the best at the potential impact on the less fortunate creates.

18. Right Question Right Answers

June, 2022

Abstract: I understand that for many firms, the fundamentals of investment are of little concern if for no reason that most investors simply have little knowledge. . The investor expects the firm to know the right answers but in fact the firm often does not even know the right questions.

19. The New Pandemic Reading

July, 2022

Abstract: This Blog is coming from a Financial Advisory firm. Our firm hopes that it can communicate with its clients. Without our clients ability to read, write, or do basic math, their ability to prepare themselves for a safe financial future is lessened. As important, we have to prepare ourselves for a world in which the literacy, the ability to write and to do math is lessened and will become increasing less. Perhaps the 'the Reading and Math' Pandemic is here.

20. Our Own Little World

August, 2022

Abstract: Between then and now each of us had a brief interlude, worthy of discussion, but certainly not what defined us. That happened years ago. I would hope I could continue to learn from them and if they wished perhaps they would learn from me.

21. Too Simple

September, 2022

Abstract: Moreover, they offer you an individual who can answer any of your inquiries and promises to be there every step of the way. Of course, you have very little real information either of the firm or the individual on the other end of the line. I appreciate these firms' efforts, but the simple solution is often "Too Simple".

22. Where When We Have Never Been

October, 2022

Abstract: Obviously, the primary issue remains how we view ourselves and others. Do we regard wider domestic travel as well as international travel as a basis for individuals' greater employment opportunities? Is wider international travel a necessity for greater interactions between individuals and the movement away from more domestic focus on growth. The lack of travel and interaction even within the United States may indicate that despite the verbiage, many younger Americans remained focused on regional development.

23. Sounds of Sound Finance

November, 2022

Abstract: What research is required is if the sounds of finance are associated with the 'Soundness of Financial Decisions'. In fact, the sounds surrounding money are often associated with the actual 'soundness' of a financial decision. This is a different meaning of 'sound'. A **Sound** understanding implies a thorough grasp of something. I look forward to your 'sound' response to the soundness of money and the use of sound in determining how 'sound' a monetary decision is made.

24. Math Awareness

December, 2022

Abstract: The Wizard of Oz

Oh, no, my dear; I'm really a very good man, but I'm a very bad Wizard, I must admit." — L. Frank Baum

25. Gas, Hybrid or Electric: Changing Models

January, 2023

Abstract: I have come to understand that all of us will have to move to newer investment approaches to propel us into the future and one that is less dependent on the local investment service stations with less advanced personnel. However, I should also not necessarily focus on large 'social media source-based investment firms' that hope to sell investment products that may fit them but not your world.

26. Mugged by Reality

February, 2023

Abstract: In the past when faced with economic or financial conditions not of my liking I often tried to make up a new story or at least find a new villain. When I raise these issues, my brother raises his head from the table and correctly corrects me with a – “So Now What? What are you going to do? I don’t need your problem I need your solutions”. He reminds me that being ‘mugged by reality’ is not an excuse for denying its existence. In short, reality bites especially when it is in your rear end but this is also a good time to get up and get off it.

27. Things I’ve learned

Abstract: Give them a date and give them an answer but never give them both.