

# Paul Graham’s Essays Lead Brian Armstrong’s Latest Resource Signals

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Brian Armstrong’s recommendations today split between execution and macro context: Paul Graham’s public essays for acting under uncertainty, and a Niall Ferguson book for understanding monetary history. Graham’s writing stands out because Armstrong ties it to a specific principle he still repeats: action produces information.

### Most compelling recommendation

The strongest save today is **Paul Graham’s public essays**. The endorsement is unusually specific: Armstrong says he read almost all of Graham’s writing on his public website, calls him a “legend” and “hero,” and still cites one lesson as a favorite: “**action produces information.**” [1, 2]

- **Title:** Paul Graham’s public essays / public website [2]
- **Content type:** Essays / blog writing [2]
- **Author/creator:** Paul Graham [2]
- **Link/URL:** paulgraham.com [2]
- **Who recommended it:** Brian Armstrong [2]
- **Key takeaway:** If you are unsure what to do, take an action that generates feedback—even a small one—because it helps break analysis paralysis and reveals the next step [1]
- **Why it matters:** This is not a generic endorsement. Armstrong presents Graham as someone who shaped how he operates and pairs the recommendation with a concrete decision-making framework he still uses [1, 2]

“One of my favorite lessons is that action produces information.” [1]

Armstrong expands that principle in practical terms: host a dinner, call some-

one, choose a name, or write a paragraph—anything that starts motion and creates information about what to do next [1]

### Also worth saving

Armstrong separately recommends a **Niall Ferguson book on the history of money**, but he does **not** name the exact title in the cited remarks [2]

- **Title:** Niall Ferguson book on the history of money (*title not specified in the source*) [2]
- **Content type:** Book [2]
- **Author/creator:** Niall Ferguson [2]
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Brian Armstrong [2]
- **Key takeaway:** Armstrong recommends it as a way to study monetary history and understand how recent the current central-bank system is, dating the modern setup to 1971 when Nixon left the gold standard [2]
- **Why it matters:** In Armstrong’s framing, the historical lens matters because currencies disconnected from hard-backed commodities can lead to overprinting, inflation, and eventual loss of reserve-currency status [2]

### Pattern

Today’s signal is small but coherent: Armstrong points readers to one resource for **operating under uncertainty** and another for **understanding monetary regimes through history**. One offers a founder heuristic for getting unstuck; the other offers historical context for questioning how durable the current system is in Armstrong’s framing [1, 2]

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### Sources

1. Crypto Billionaire Invests in Rewriting Children’s DNA - Coinbase CEO
2. Brian Armstrong — It’s Wartime, All the Time