## **Stock Evaluation Process**

- 1. Read news about the company
  - a. Yahoo Finance and WSJ
- 2. Evaluate the company according to the Evaluation Criteria
  - a. Yahoo Finance
  - b. Annual Reports
  - c. Balance Sheet
  - d. Income Statement
  - e. Statement of Cash Flows
- 3. Read about the company's business
- 4. Information sources
  - a. Main sources
    - i. Yahoo Finance
    - ii. Wall Street Journal
    - iii. Barron's
    - iv. Investor's Business Daily
  - b. Additional sources
    - i. The Street
    - ii. Forbes
    - iii. The Economist
    - iv. US News & World Report
    - v. Conde Nast Portfolio
    - vi. Business Week
    - vii. The Motley Fool
    - viii. SmartMoney
    - ix. Money
    - x. Fortune
    - xi. Bloomberg
    - xii. Morningstar
    - xiii. MSN Money
  - c. Company websites
  - d. Annual reports
    - i. Balance Sheet
    - ii. Income Statement
    - iii. Statement of Cash Flows
  - e. Stock reports of companies and competitors
  - f. Analyst opinions
  - g. EBSCO
  - h. Industry reports
  - i. Books

## **Evaluation Criteria**

- 1. Performance
- 2. Internal Environment
- 3. External Environment
- 4. Purchase

#### 1. Performance

- a. Cash flow
- b. Short-term solvency (liquidity)
- c. Long-term solvency (financial leverage)
- d. Asset management (turnover)
- e. Profitability
- f. Market value
- g. Trends

## 2. Internal Environment

- a. News
- b. Company history
- c. Management
- d. Organizational structure
- e. Business model
- f. Products and services
- g. Sales and Marketing
- h. Pricing
- i. Distribution
- j. Auditors

## 3. External Environment

- a. Industry
- b. Global market
- c. Economics
- d. Government
- e. Culture

#### 4. Purchase

## **Performance Analysis**

#### 1. Cash flow

- a. Net income
- b. Cash flow from assets
  - i. Cash flow to creditors + Cash flow to owners
  - ii. Operating cash flow net capital spending change in net working capital
  - iii. Growing companies can have negative cash flow
    - 1. The company has raised more money by borrowing and selling stock than it paid out to creditors and stockholders

## c. Operating cash flow

- i. Earnings before interest and taxes + depreciation taxes
- ii. Indicates whether cash inflows from operations are sufficient to cover cash outflows

## d. Net capital spending

- i. Ending net fixed assets beginning net fixed assets + depreciation
- ii. Money spent on fixed assets less money received from the sale of fixed assets

### e. Change in net working capital

i. Ending NWC - beginning NWC

## f. Quality-of-income ratio

- i. Operating cash flow / net income
- ii. Companies with high ratios outperform companies with low ratios, with much of the outperformance occurring on earnings announcements

### 2. Short-term solvency (liquidity)

- a. The firm's ability to pay its bills over the short run without undue stress
- b. Focus is on current assets and current liabilities
- c. Interesting to short-term creditors (banks and short-term lenders)

#### d. Current ratio

- i. Current assets / current liabilities
- ii. Net working capital
  - 1. Current assets current liabilities
  - 2. Current ratio less than 1 = negative net working capital

## e. Quick (Acid-Test) ratio

- i. (Current assets inventory) / current liabilities
- ii. Large inventories can be a sign of short-term trouble

## f. Cash ratio

- i. Total cash / current liabilities
- ii. Indicates the extent to which a firm can pay current liabilities without selling inventory or accounts receivables

## g. Net working capital to total assets

- i. Net working capital / total assets
- ii. Low value might indicate low liquidity levels

#### h. Interval measure

- i. Current assets / average daily operating costs
- ii. How long can a business keep running if revenue is low?
- iii. Average daily operating costs (aka burn rate)

### 3. Long-term solvency (financial leverage)

- a. The firm's long-term ability to meet its obligations
- b. Total cash
- c. Total debt
- d. Net Asset Value (NAV)
  - i. Assets liabilities
  - ii. Aka book value

#### e. Operating margin

- i. Operating income / net sales
- ii. The amount of income remaining after paying for variable costs (e.g. wages, raw materials)
- iii. Determines how much money can go towards fixed costs (e.g. interest on debt)

#### f. Total debt ratio

i. (Total assets - total equity) / total assets

## g. Debt-equity ratio

i. Total debt / total equity

## h. Equity multiplier

i. Total assets / total equity

## i. Financial leverage ratio

- i. Total assets / owner's equity
- ii. Proportion of a firm's assets that owners control relative to the amount of the owners' investment in the company
- iii. Highly leveraged companies rely on debt or outside financing more than owner financing

#### j. Long-term debt ratio

- i. Long-term debt / (long-term debt + total equity)
- ii. Long-term debt and equity (aka total capitalization)

## k. Times interest earned ratio

- i. EBIT / interest
- ii. How well a company covers its interest obligations
- iii. Aka interest coverage ratio
- iv. EBIT
  - 1. Earnings before interest and taxes

#### I. Cash coverage ratio

- i. (EBIT + depreciation) / interest
- ii. EBITD
  - 1. Earnings before interest, taxes, and depreciation
- iii. EBITDA
  - 1. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization
  - 2. Amortization
    - Noncash deductions similar conceptually to depreciation

## 4. Asset management (turnover)

- a. The firm's ability to efficiently or intensively use assets to generate sales
- b. Inventory turnover
  - i. Cost of goods sold / inventory
  - ii. The higher the ratio, the more efficiently inventory is being managed

## c. Days' sales in inventory

i. 365 days / inventory turnover

#### d. Receivables turnover

- i. Sales / accounts receivable
- ii. Collecting outstanding credit accounts and re-loaning the money
- iii. Aka average collection period (ACP)

## e. Net working capital (NWC) turnover

- i. Sales / NWC
- ii. How much work is gotten out of working capital

#### f. Fixed asset turnover

- i. Sales / net fixed assets
- ii. For every dollar in fixed assets, x amount of sales are generated

#### g. Total asset turnover

- i. Sales / total assets
- ii. For every dollar in assets, x amount of sales are generated

## 5. Profitability

a. The firm's ability to efficiently use its assets and manage its operations

## b. Profit margin

- i. Net income / sales
- ii. Amount of profit generated for every dollar in sales

## c. Return on assets (ROA)

- i. Net income / total assets
- ii. Amount of profit generated for every dollar of assets
- iii. Aka return on book assets

## d. Return on equity (ROE)

- i. Net income / total equity
- ii. How stockholders fare during the year
- iii. The true bottom-line measure of performance in an accounting sense
- iv. Aka return on book equity
- v. Aka return on net worth

#### e. Du Pont identity

- i. ROE = profit margin x total asset turnover x equity multiplier
  - 1. Equity multiplier = 1 + debt-equity ratio
- ii. ROE is affected by
  - 1. Operating efficiency (as measured by profit margin)
  - 2. Asset use efficiency (as measured by total asset turnover)
  - 3. Financial leverage (as measured by equity turnover)
- iii. Debt financing is governed by a firm's capital structure policy

#### 6. Market value

a. The market price per share of stock

- b. Share Price
- c. 52 week high
- d. 52 week low
- e. Market capitalization
- f. Earnings per share (EPS)
  - Net income / shares outstanding
- g. Book value per share
  - i. (Shareholders' equity preferred stock) / average outstanding shares

### h. Earnings yield

i. Earnings per share / price per share

## i. Price-earnings ratio (PE ratio)

- i. Price per share / earnings per share
- ii. How much investors are willing to pay per dollar of current earnings
- iii. Higher ratios mean the firm has significant prospects for future growth
- iv. No earnings yields a high ratio
- v. Not meaningful when a company has negative earnings for extended periods (e.g. start-ups)

## j. PEG ratio

- i. PE ratio / growth rate
- ii. Growth rate = growth rate x 100

#### k. Price-sales ratio

i. Price per share / sales per share

#### I. Price-book ratio

- i. Price per share / book value per share
- ii. Aka market-to-book ratio
- iii. Aka price-equity ratio
- iv. Book value per share = total equity / total shares outstanding
- v. Book value per share = total assets (intangible assets + liabilities)
- vi. Compares the market value of a firm's investments to their cost
- vii. Value less than 1 means not successful in creating value for shareholders
- viii. Lower ratio could mean the company is undervalued
- ix. Lower ratio could mean there is something fundamentally wrong with the company
- x. Gives some idea whether too much is paid for what would be left if the company went bankrupt immediately
- xi. Focuses on historical costs, which are less relevant

#### m. Tobin's Q ratio

- i. Market value of firm's assets / replacement cost of firm's assets
- ii. Market value of firm's debt and equity / replacement cost of firm's assets
- iii. Similar to market-to-book ratio
- iv. Focuses on what the firm is worth today relative to what it would cost to replace it today
- v. High ratios tend to be those with attractive investment opportunities or significant competitive advantages or both

vi. Can be difficult to calculate with accuracy because estimating the replacement costs of a firm's assets is hard and market values for a firm's debt are often unobservable

## n. Dividend per share

- i. Annually
- ii. Quarterly
- iii. Dividend cannot be more than EPS

## o. Dividend yield

- i. Dividend per share / price per share
- p. Beta

## 7. Trends

## a. Common-base year statements

i. A standardized financial statement presenting all items relative to a certain base year amount (as the benchmark)

## 2. Time Trend Analysis

a. Compare ratios on the most recent financial statement information with past years' financial statements

## **Performance Questions**

### Does the company's past performance indicate that it will perform well in the future?

#### **Cash flow**

- 1. What is the cash flow from assets?
  - a. If it is negative, is the company growing?
- 2. What is the operating cash flow?
- 3. What is the quality-of-income ratio?

## Liquidity

- 1. What is the current ratio?
  - a. If it is high, is cash being used efficiently?
  - b. If it has increased, is the firm increasing debt over the long run?
  - c. If it is low, does the company have a large reserve of untapped borrowing power?
- 2. What is the quick ratio?
  - a. If it is low (with respect to the current ratio) is there too much inventory?
  - b. If there is too much inventory, has the company overestimated sales and/or overbought or overproduced?
- 3. What is the cash ratio?
- 4. What is net working capital to assets?
- 5. What is the interval measure?
  - a. If the amount is low, is the company a start-up?

## **Financial leverage**

- 1. What is the operating margin?
- 2. What is the total debt ratio?
  - a. What is the debt-equity ratio?
  - b. What is the firm's capital structure policy?
- 3. What is the financial leverage ratio?
- 4. What is the long-term debt ratio?
  - a. What are the firm's trade practices? How is long-term debt affected?
- 5. What is the times interest ratio?
- 6. What is the cash coverage ratio?
  - a. Is the firm meeting its financial obligations?

#### **Turnover**

- 1. What is the inventory turnover?
  - a. What is the days' sales in inventory ratio?
- 2. What is the receivables turnover?
  - a. What is the days' sales in receivables?
  - b. What is the average collection period?
- 3. What are the asset turnover ratios?
  - a. NWC turnover?
  - b. Fixed asset turnover?

c. Total asset turnover?

## **Profitability**

- 1. What is the firm's profit margin?
  - a. Has total profit (or operating cash flow) increased or decreased?
  - b. If profit margin has decreased, have sales prices been lowered?
- 2. What is ROA?
- 3. What is ROE?
  - a. How does it compare?
- 4. What is the Du Pont Identity?
  - a. What is the difference between ROE and ROA?
  - b. Is the firm weak or strong in operating efficiency or asset use efficiency?
  - c. Is the firm using debt enough or too much?
  - d. What is the firm's capital structure policy?
  - e. If ROE is unsatisfactory, which part(s) provide reasons?

#### Market value

- 1. What is the share price?
  - a. What is the 52 week high and the 52 week low?
  - b. Is the price less than NAV?
  - c. Does the price make mathematical and economic sense?
  - d. Is the price a bargain relative to yield?
  - e. When has the share price typically been low during the year?
- 2. What is the volume traded?
- 3. How many shares are outstanding?
- 4. What is the market capitalization?
- 5. What is the EPS?
  - a. What is the trend for the previous 5 years?
- 6. What is the book value per share?
- 7. What is the earnings yield?
- 8. What is the P/E ratio
  - a. If the ratio is high, does the firm have significant prospects for future growth?
  - b. If the ratio is high, does the firm have little or no earnings?
  - c. If the firm has negative earnings for extended periods, is it a start-up?
  - d. What is PEG ratio? Is it too high relative to growth?
- 9. What is the P/S ratio?
- 10. What is the P/B ratio?
  - a. If the ratio is less than 1, has the firm not created value for shareholders?
  - b. Is the company undervalued?
  - c. Is there something fundamentally wrong with the company?
- 11. What is Tobin's Q ratio?
  - a. If the ratio is high, does the firm have attractive opportunities or significant competitive advantages or both?
  - b. Is the calculation accurate?
- 12. What is the annual dividend per share?
  - a. Is the dividend more than EPS?
  - b. If EPS has been increasing in the past 5 years, have the dividends increased as well?

- 13. What is the dividend yield?
  - a. Are earnings better than bonds?
- 14. What is the beta?

## **Trends**

1. How does the company's current performance compare to its past performance?

# **Internal Environment Analysis**

- 1. News
- 2. Company history
- 3. Management
- 4. Organizational structure
- 5. Business model
- 6. Projects
- 7. Products and services
- 8. Sales and marketing
- 9. Pricing
- 10. Distribution
- 11. Auditors
- 12. Property

## **Internal Environment Questions**

### Does the internal environment indicate that the company will succeed in the future?

#### News

- 1. Does the company have news?
- 2. How will that news impact the company's performance?

## **Company history**

- 1. What is the company's history?
- 2. How does the company's history influence its performance?

### Management

- 1. Who are the leaders of the company?
  - a. Board of directors?
  - b. Executives?
- 2. Are the company's managers stable?
  - a. Do they have integrity and are they ethical?
  - b. Are they participating in insider trading?
- 3. How does management influence performance?

### **Organizational structure**

- 1. What is the company's organizational structure?
- 2. How does the organizational structure impact performance?

### **Business model**

- 1. What is the business model?
  - a. Is it simple?
- 2. How does the business model affect performance?
- 3. To capitalize on the market, what changes are being made to the business model?

#### **Projects**

- 1. What projects are the company working on?
- 2. If projects are complete, how are the results contributing to the company?
- 3. If projects are not yet complete, how are they progressing and what are they expected to contribute to the company?

#### **Products and services**

- 1. What products and services are offered?
- 2. How do they affect performance?

### Sales and marketing

- 1. What are the company's sales and marketing practices?
- 2. How do they impact performance?

## **Pricing**

- 1. How are the company's products and services priced?
- 2. Are prices too high or too low?
- 3. How are they affecting performance?

## Distribution

1. If the company manufactures products, how is distribution affecting performance?

## **Auditors**

- 1. Who are the auditors?
- 2. Is there anything negative that might affect the company's future?

## **Property**

1. How old is the company's plant and equipment?

## **External Environment Analysis**

## 1. Industry

- 1. News
- 2. History
- 3. Industry position
- 4. Industry factors
  - 1. Market structure
  - 2. C4
  - 3. HHI
  - 4. Customers
    - a. Company
    - b. Industry
    - c. Knowledge of the company's products and services
    - d. Potential customers
  - 5. Competitors
  - 6. Suppliers
  - 7. Speed of product obsolescence
  - 8. Ease of entry or exit for new producers
- 5. Trends
  - 1. Peer Group Analysis
    - a. Compare the company's performance to its competitors
    - b. Compare the company's performance to its entire industry

### 2. Global Market

- 1. News
- 2. History

## 3. Economics

1. Economic factors

#### 4. Government

- 1. Laws and regulations
- 2. Proposed legislation

#### 5. Culture

## **External Environment Questions**

Does the external environment encourage the company to achieve future success?

### Industry

## 1. News

- 1. What's the news in the company's industry?
- 2. How will that news impact the company's performance?

#### 2. History

- 1. What is the history of the industry?
- 2. How does that history influence the company's performance?

### 3. Industry position

- 1. What is the company's position within the industry?
- 2. How is the company improving or maintaining its position within the industry?
- 3. Does the company have or have the potential to get a significant share of its particular industry's market?
- 4. Does the company have a history of profitability that is above average for its industry?
- 5. If the company is relatively new, has it shown that it is likely to be successful in the industry?

#### 4. Industry factors

- 1. What is the industry's market structure?
- 2. What is the industry's C4 ratio?
- 3. What is the industry's HHI?
- 4. Who are the customers?
  - a. For the company?
  - b. For the industry?
  - c. Are the customers knowledgeable of the company's products and services?
  - d. What is the company doing to gain new customers?
- 5. Who are the competitors?
  - a. Are they in the industry?
- 6. Who are the suppliers?
  - a. What are the suppliers' relationships to competitors?
- 7. What is the speed of product obsolescence in the industry?
- 8. What is the ease of entry or exit for new producers?
- 9. Is the industry growing?
- 10. What are the industry's prospects for future growth?
- 11. What is the S&P rating?

### 5. Trends

- 1. How does the company's performance compare to its competitors?
- 2. How does the company's performance compare to the entire industry?

### **Global Market**

#### 1. News

- 1. What's the news in the global marketplace?
- 2. How will that news impact the company?

## 2. History

- 1. What is the recent history of the global market?
- 2. How does recent history of the global market impact the company?

#### **Economics**

1. What are the economic factors affecting the company?

#### Government

- 1. What laws and regulations are affecting the company?
- 2. What proposed legislation will impact the company?
- 3. How is government everywhere the company is located impacting its performance?

#### Culture

1. How is culture everywhere the company is located influencing its performance?

# **Purchase Questions**

## What are the costs of owning shares in the company?

- 1. What will the capital gains taxes be?
- 2. If the company is foreign, how much will double-taxation cost?
- 3. What will ownership cost on income taxes?
- 4. When should the stock be sold if this become necessary?
  - a. How far is the price allowed to fall?

The basic ideas of investing are to look at stocks as business, use the market's fluctuations to your advantage, and seek a <u>margin of safety</u>. That's what Ben Graham taught us. A hundred years from now they will still be the cornerstones of investing. [28][29][30]

— Warren Buffett

## **Stock Market Sectors**

- 1. Basic Materials
- 2. Communication Services
- 3. Conglomerates
- 4. Consumer Discretionary
- 5. Consumer Goods
- 6. Energy
- 7. Financial
- 8. Healthcare
- 9. Industrial Goods
- 10. Industrials
- 11. Real Estate
- 12. Services
- 13. Technology
- 14. Utilities

## The Intelligent Investor

## **Benjamin Graham**

- 1. Successful investing
  - a. Industries most likely to grow
  - b. Most promising companies in these industries
- 2. Look for stocks selling not far above their tangible-asset value (net-asset value)
- 3. Simple portfolio policy
  - a. High-grade bonds and diversified list of leading common stocks
  - b. 25% in bonds, 75% in stocks
- 4. Securities should keep the principle safe and guarantee an acceptable return
- 5. Business earnings should be influenced more by wholesale prices than by consumer prices
- 6. Inflation adds to common stock values by raising the rate of earnings on capital investment
- 7. 1950 1969: great rise in interest rates, aggregate corporate debt is an adverse economic factor
- 8. Rules for defensive investing
  - a. Adequate not excessive diversification: 10 to 30 stocks
  - b. Each company should be large, prominent, and conservatively financed
  - c. Each company should have a long record of continuous dividend payments
  - d. Limit the price paid for stock in relation to its average earnings over the past seven years
    - i. e.g. 25 times average earnings
    - ii. Not more than 20 times those of the past 12 months
- 9. Primary (or prominent) companies are considered large and prominent
  - a. To be prominent, a company should rank among the first quarter or first third in size within its industry group
  - b. Secondary companies are companies that are not leaders in a fairly important industry
- 10. Enterprising investment
  - a. To obtain better than average results over the long term, a policy of selection must
    - Meet objective or rational tests of underlying soundness
    - ii. Be different from the policy followed by most investors
  - b. Growth stocks
    - i. Stocks that have done better than the average over a period of years and are expected to do so in the future
  - c. Recommended investment approaches
    - i. The relatively unpopular large company
      - 1. Tend to sell at a high price and low multiplier in good years and at a low price and high multiplier in bad years

- 2. Highest multiplier = the most popular of the group of stocks
- ii. Purchase of bargain issues
  - 1. Value should be at least 50% more than the price
  - 2. How to detect a bargain stock
    - a. Method of appraisal
      - Estimating future earnings and multiplying these by a factor appropriate to the stock
    - b. Value of the business to a private owner
      - i. Determined by expected future earnings
      - More attention is paid to the realizable value of the assets, with emphasis on net current assets or working capital
  - 3. Sources of undervaluation
    - a. Currently disappointing results
    - b. Protracted neglect or unpopularity
    - c. The market's failure to recognize its true earnings picture
  - 4. The investor should require stable earnings over the past decade or more (no year of earnings deficit)
  - 5. Look for stocks that sell for less than the company's net working capital alone, after deducting all prior obligations
    - a. The buyer would pay nothing for fixed assets
  - 6. Substantial profits from the purchase of secondary companies at bargain prices arise in a variety of ways
    - a. The dividend return is high
    - b. The reinvested earnings are substantial in relation to the price paid and will ultimately affect the price
    - c. A bull market is ordinarily most generous to low-priced issues
    - d. Even during featureless market periods price adjustments happen
    - e. New conditions or new policies or change in management may improve earnings
- iii. Special situations (or workouts)
- 11. Defensive investors should avoid the following practices
  - a. Trading in the market
    - i.e. short selling
  - b. Short-term selectivity
    - Buying stocks reporting or expected to report increased earnings
  - c. Long-term selectivity
    - i. Buying stocks with an excellent record of past growth
    - ii. Buying stocks that have yet to show impressive results, but are expected to establish a high earning power later
- 12. Avoid purchasing at full price
  - a. Foreign bonds
  - b. Ordinary preferred stocks
  - c. Secondary common stocks

- d. Full price means prices close to par for bonds or preferred stocks, and prices that represent about the fair business value of common stocks
- 13. Stocks sell almost constantly at prices above their net asset value (or book value or balance-sheet value)
  - a. The investor must depend on the stock market to validate commitments
  - b. The better a company's record and prospects, the less relationship the price of its shares will have to their book value
  - c. The greater the premium above book value, the less certain the basis of determining intrinsic value
- 14. Striking losses do not indicate any doubt about future long-term growth; they reflect a lack of confidence in the premium valuation made by the stock market
- 15. Concentrate on issues selling close to tangible-asset value (<= 1/3 above)
  - a. Related to balance sheet
- 16. Demand satisfactory ratio of earnings to price, sufficiently strong financial position, and prospect that earnings will at least be maintained over the years
- 17. Earning power of holdings should remain satisfactory
- 18. Working capital = net current assets
- 19. The stock market often goes far wrong and sometimes an alert investor can take advantage
- 20. Most businesses change in character and quality over the years
- 21. The true investor scarcely ever is forced to sell his shares and at all other times is free to disregard the current quote
- 22. Most of the time, pay more attention to dividend returns and operating results
- 23. The investor with a sound portfolio should expect the prices to fluctuate and not be concerned by sizable declines or excited by sizable advances
- 24. If the reason people invest is to make money, then in seeking advice they are asking other to tell them how to make money
- 25. Look at Value Line for forecasts of future earnings and dividends
- 26. Common stock analysis (factors affecting the capitalization rate)
  - a. General long-term prospects
    - i. Price-earnings ratios
  - b. Management
    - i. Past record
    - ii. Estimates for the next five years
    - iii. Long-term prospects

- c. Financial strength and capital structure
  - i. Too little common stock in relation to bonds and preferred stock may make for a huge speculative profit (leverage)
- d. Dividend record
  - i. Continuous dividend payments for the last 20 years or more
- e. Current dividend rate
  - i. Standard dividend policy: distribution of about 2/3 of average earnings
- 27. Formula for the valuation of growth stocks
  - a. Value = Current (Normal) Earnings x (8.5 plus twice the expected annual growth rate)
- 28. Don't take a single year's earnings seriously
- 29. If you pay attention to short-term earnings, look out for booby traps in the per-share figures
- 30. (p. 166) pay attention to annual earnings vs. quarterly earnings
- 31. (p. 176 179) comparison of companies
  - a. Profitability
    - i. Operating income to sales ratio
  - b. Stability
    - i. Maximum decline in per-share earnings in any one of the past 10 years, as against the average of the 3 preceding years
    - ii. No decline translates into 100% stability
  - c. Growth
  - d. Financial position
    - i. Assets to liabilities
    - ii. Low long-term debt
  - e. Dividends
    - i. History of continuance without interruption
  - f. Price history
    - i. Percentage advance in price over decades (except for stock splits)
- 32. Requirements for the defensive investor's portfolio
  - a. Adequate size
  - b. Sufficiently strong financial condition
    - Current assets to current liabilities
  - c. Earnings stability
    - i. Some earnings in each of the past 10 years
  - d. Continued dividends for at least 20 years
  - e. No earnings deficit in the past 10 years
  - f. 10-year growth of at least 1/3 in per-share earnings
  - g. Moderate price/earnings ratio
    - i. Current price should not be more than 15 times average earnings of the past 3 vears
  - h. Price of stock no more than 1/2 times net asset value
  - i. Price no more than 15 times average earnings of the past 3 years

- 33. Public utility stocks
  - a. Comfortable and inviting situations for investors
  - b. Moderate price in relation to book value
- 34. Financial stocks
  - a. Price in relation to earnings and book value
- 35. The future can be approached in two ways
  - a. Prediction (or projection)
    - i. Qualitative
    - ii. Emphasizes prospects, management, and quality
  - b. Protection
    - i. Quantitative
    - ii. Emphasizes relationships between selling price and earnings, assets, dividends, etc
- 36. Be wary of buying stock with large long-term debt
- 37. Be wary of buying stock in businesses stretched across too many industries
- 38. Be wary of growth stocks that grow too fast
- 39. Be wary of stocks that are overbonded
- 40. Look for stocks with low multipliers
- 41. Look for stocks with low book value but pay attention to contradiction
  - a. The company is earning a high return on its capital
  - b. The investor is vulnerable to any important adverse change in the company's earning situation
- 42. Avoid waves of optimism and pessimism about stocks
- 43. Companies with better growth records and higher profitability have sold at higher multipliers of current earnings