Testing Aphorisms

In this exercise, you will be testing the validity of a commonly held aphorism. We tend to use these without thinking about them – and like MythBusters we are going to test their validity. However, you will be testing both their literal as well as figurative meaning. Work in groups no larger than 3. This is due before you leave the room today.

1. Choose a saying that you understand the meaning of. There are 20 sayings on that piece of paper, if you don’t ‘get’ one, move on to another.
2. Submit the following to me:
   1. Literal meaning of the saying (may be self-explanatory)
   2. Metaphorical meaning – for example, “A rolling stone gathers no moss.” – if a person is always moving, never putting down roots, then they avoid picking up responsibilities or cares.
   3. Using the research methods you have learned in the last few days (case study, survey, observation, correlational studies, experiments) lay out how you would test:
      1. The literal meaning of the saying (as they did on the show)
      2. The metaphorical (psychological) meaning of the saying. This is the real key to the lesson. How would you test this over a period of time (could be short term or long term).
         1. Do not forget operational definitions, how are you going to assign control and experimental groups if you are using experiments? Are there any confounding variables?