

Sharpen Your Axe

Give me six hours to chop down a tree
And this is how I will proceed
I'll take the first four to sharpen my axe
While planning how I will succeed

If it's worth doing - it's worth doing right
Preparation will lead to success
The sharper my axe the deeper my cut
And the effort expended is less



While honing my blade I study the tree
Its structure its weight and its lean
Next I observe the surrounding terrain
Ensuring the drop zone is clean

Before I begin the physical work
I take down the tree in my mind
I first drop it left and then drop it right
Each effort is studied and timed

When I have a plan I take my position
I swing and then pull my axe free
Again and again with perfect precision
I efficiently take down the tree

In modern terms - with chain saw in hand
My plan of attack will remain
If given two hours to cut down a tree
First - I will sharpen my chain

Map out your plan before you commit
Strategically lay out your tracks
And when you are done - if others need help
Teach them to Sharpen Their Axe

Original words historically attributed to
Abraham Lincoln "Give me six hours to
chop down a tree and I will spend the
first four sharpening my axe."

