



Group Decision Tip

E-mailed every two weeks to help groups make good decisions

Facilitation

In principle, groups work best when a facilitator manages the process. When it is someone's job to look after the group's process, everyone else can focus on substance. When I know that someone is managing the order of speakers, I can pay full attention to what is being said.

When there is no objective facilitator and group members can manipulate the process, it tilts power toward a few, limits creativity, and clogs efficiency. It is typical for Congress, state legislatures, and town governments, for instance, to spend a lot of time debating process issues, agenda setting, committee membership, and rules...often in order to influence a particular outcome.

To maximize efficiency, equality, and creativity, high-functioning groups engage a facilitator who works for the group as a whole, manages the process, and does not try to influence the outcome.

Practical Tip: If you want good group decisions, invest in good group facilitation. Like any kind of professional expertise, group facilitation expertise is learned through study and experience. There is a body of knowledge and a proven set of techniques that can move a group forward by leaps and bounds.

Engaging a facilitation expert, whether a paid outsider or volunteer insider, brings knowledge, skill, and objectivity to your group process and substantially increases your chances of making good group decisions.

Group Decision Tips are written by Craig Freshley and distributed by e-mail to subscribers at no charge about every two weeks. Please visit www.GoodGroupDecisions.com to subscribe to the Tips and for a complete archive of all previously published Group Decision Tips. You can comment on any Tip and view comments of others. At the website you can also find useful handouts, links, and information about workshops. Group Decision Tips (tm) is the brand name for a specific set of beliefs and practices that help groups create new benefits and move toward peace in an efficient manner.

Providing Group Decision Tips to others in any format is strictly prohibited for commercial purposes and/or for any type of compensation but free distribution for non-commercial purposes is encouraged in this format with proper credit to Craig Freshley.

Good Group Decisions, Inc.

98 Maine Street, Brunswick, ME 04011
Phone: 207-729-5607

craig@goodgroupdecisions.com

www.GoodGroupDecisions.com
Fax: 207-725-8710

Helping groups make good decisions® and Good Group Decisions® are trademarks. Copyright

©.2010 All rights reserved.