



## Group Decision Tip

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

### Direct Communication

**In principle**, the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. When it comes to communications between two people, the shorter the better. It's often easier to get information indirectly, and usually more fun. But indirect information is more like entertainment than fact. Direct communication builds true understanding.

**Practical Tip:** If you are wondering what someone thinks about something, or why they did something, or what they plan to do in the future, ask them directly. Do not speculate about it with others. Do not proceed based on assumptions. Get the story straight from the source. If you want someone to know what you think, or why you did something, or what you plan to do, tell them. Do not be silent, sneaky, or circuitous and "let them figure it out." When you hear information indirectly like "she thinks this," or "he said that," know that what you are hearing is out of context, altered by the messenger, and only one side of the story.

Good group decisions are built on true understanding and true understanding comes straight from the source.

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