



Group Decision Tip

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

Heads up

In principle, people appreciate a “heads up” before having to decide something. Like, “Make sure I have my head up and see you before you throw the ball to me.” With warning there’s a better chance the ball will be caught and no one gets hurt. With a heads up our decisions are more thoughtful, inclusive, and less reactionary.

Practical Tip: Give your group advance notice of every decision. Sometimes it is a long advance on a big-picture issue like, “Group, within a few months we’re going to have to decide the new product line.” Sometimes it is written notice that a decision is expected, such as a memo or a meeting agenda. Sometimes it is a two-minute warning by the meeting facilitator like, “Okay everybody, in a couple of minutes I’m going to ask you to vote on this issue.”

It doesn’t work well to pop a question and expect a fast reaction, especially in a group or public setting. Good group decisions are pre-meditated.

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 and for a discussion forum, workshops, handouts, links, and a complete archive of all previously published Group Decision Tips. 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.

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Good Group Decisions, Inc.

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

craig@goodgroupdecisions.com

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

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