



Group Decision Tip

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

My First Thought is Probably Not My Best

In principle, my initial reaction—my first thought—is very rarely my best thought. Often my first thought is absurd and shows me how *not* to react.

Like first brush strokes on a canvas, first thoughts provide a starting place for more refined thoughts, for subsequent brush strokes. First thoughts, like initial brush strokes, are rarely worth sharing. In fact, sharing first thoughts can be deeply counter-productive to good group decisions.

Practical Tip: Just because I think something, doesn't mean I have to say it or act on it. When we share first thoughts we run a substantial risk of offending others, saying things we will regret, and requiring the group to spend time on issues that turn out to be a waste of time. Best to sit with our thoughts until a clear picture emerges of what we want to say.

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