



Group Decision Tip

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

Freedom of speech

In principle, to make good group decisions we need to hear all perspectives. We need to be able to openly disagree with respect and civility. We need to have the courage to speak what's on our minds and hearts even in the face of opposition. When a group's culture makes it "not okay" to voice certain views or when participants feel intimidated about sharing, those suppressed viewpoints don't go away; they just fester and turn into conflict later.

Practical Tip: Help create a group culture that encourages open sharing of all points of view. Offer encouragement and support to those who express minority opinions, even if you disagree. Stand tall and speak your own truth, and be genuinely open to considering others.

When we express our differing opinions it at least gives us a chance to understand each other better, talk, and inch toward eventual resolution. When views are suppressed it might appear orderly in the short run, but inches us toward eventual conflict.

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