



Group Decision Tip

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

Take a Break

In principle, activities that contribute to good group decisions are not always best done by the group as a whole. Often times information, ideas, and potential solutions are all put on the table in such a tangled web that the group as a whole can't make sense of them. Other times, emotions run high in the heat of debate and cloud our ability to see clearly. Further, in the midst of lively discussion it's often hard to discern our own thoughts and feelings.

When things are confusing and the group is in disarray, we are likely to be hugely inefficient. We repeat ourselves, spin our wheels, and make clumsy progress in wrong directions.

Practical Tip: Take a break. When a group breaks for ten minutes or overnight or puts an issue to rest until the next meeting, it gives time for things to settle out and become clear. People chat informally in small groups and develop new understanding. Group facilitators have time to organize information and proposals so that others can make sense of it all. Emotions cool and personal views become clear. Time heals.

Taking a break is often the most efficient way to proceed.

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 ©.2009 All rights reserved.