



Group Decision Tip

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

Different views

In principle, how things look depends on where you sit. It's not that one is right and one is wrong, simply that the views are different.

In hierarchical relationships, the person or group at the top has a wider view than the several people or groups below. The supervisor must consider many things of relative importance. The subordinate considers fewer things in greater detail. Even though the views may seemingly disagree, each is doing their job; seeing things from their proper perspective.

In other relationships too, our viewpoints are different by design. Tension and initial disagreement are expected. Good group decisions result when we consider all the different views, work out the tension, and identify what's best for the group as a whole.

Practical Tip: Rather than spend energy arguing which view is correct, assume that all views are correct. Use all available perspectives to better understand what you're looking at.

Ask group members to say how it is for them, how things look from where they sit. Ask people outside the group, "What does it look like from out there?" Listen without judgment.

If you are asked to give your view, offer it without expectation that it will prevail. Speak for yourself, from your own perspective. Humbly offer your piece of the puzzle to help create the larger picture.

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.