

**HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE**

**Purpose:** To examine how different groups come to decisions and analyze the significance of this when working in youth-adult partnerships.

**Materials:** Handout - Case Study for Decision

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Procedure:**

Explain to the group that any group of people can have different ideas how things should be done. We are going to break up into different groups to try and come to one decision. The question is really a fairly simple one, answered all over the country every year. "You go to a school that has a uniform. What should the school uniform be?" The groups are going to be comprised of all adults, all youth and a mixed group and you are all to come to a conclusion before we can move on."

Break the participants into groups of 4-5 people per group. Let all groups work until they all have come to a conclusion. Have each group share what they came up with as a uniform, and how their group worked to come to that conclusion.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How easy or hard was it to come to a decision?
2. What do you think made different groups come to different conclusions?
3. What different approaches do groups use to come to decisions?
4. What were the different roles of youth or adults?
5. What does this tell us about trying to work together in partnership?

**Leader's Notes**

Make sure that you have counted the number of participants, determined how many people will be in each group and how you are going to quickly divide them.

You can choose to have the group do a different scenario, just be sure to introduce the one you've selected.

One possible piece to this activity is how much longer it may take for youth and adults trying to work together in partnership.

6. Do you think in decision-making, youth and adults should always have an equal voice? Why?
7. What is one thing that happened in this activity that you can use in the future?

**Leader's Notes**

**Leader Resource  
Decision Scenarios**

You are a member of a planning committee that has been set up to determine the school uniform for the next year. Your task is to establish a uniform and determine how you will present it to the school board.

You are a member of a group that is developing questions for a mock election designed to familiarize teens with the voting process. There is space for three opinion questions on the ballot. What should those questions be?

Your community has a high incidence of teen fatalities resulting from drinking and driving. Vendors of alcoholic beverages seem to pay little attention to the minimum age requirements for purchasing alcohol. Use of alcoholic beverages among teens seems to be an accepted and almost expected practice at parties. You are a member of a task force appointed by the mayor to make recommendations regarding what should be done. What would your group recommend?

You live in a small but progressive rural county where community leaders are concerned about the constant outflow of talent and resources as graduates of the local high school leave for what they perceive to be better opportunities elsewhere and never return. Your group is being asked to develop a set of recommendations for what should be done. What do you recommend?

One out of every three students who attend the local high school does not graduate in four years. Many of these students drop out and never return to school. Your group has been appointed to design a program aimed at getting students to stay in school. What will your program include?

You are a member of the advisory board for the city recreation department. It is time to develop the list of recreational activities that will be offered during the summer. The department has requested that your group provide a list of the top three priorities for funding. What will your group list as priorities?