

The situation – participant 1 in group

A private grant has just donated a budget for fieldtrips for your school's K-1 class rooms. You are a member of a group of teachers/instructional partners that has been convened to discuss this issue. The purpose of the meeting is to generate ideas about how to create enriching activities and how to present the best one to the principal. The grant requires consensus and the principal's signature.

You are given an initial position. Only Share your initial position, don't share what is on the paper. You are allowed to change your mind based on the discussion with your coworkers.

Your initial position is that. . .

1. You strongly believe that K-1 classrooms should have visitors but children should not leave the building. You want to pay the aquarium to bring materials to your school. You know that the principal hates to spend money on additional buses.

The situation– participant 2 in group

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2. You want spend the \$500 on buses and admissions to Franklin Park Zoo. You know that the principal is reluctant to have K-1 children go for walks in the local neighborhood due to safety concerns.

The situation – participant 3 in group

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3. You want to walk to local library/ grocery store / pizza shop /laundromat and link these field trips with the OWL curriculum. Money will be used to purchase materials at these settings. The principal wants to have parent input as appropriate in the curriculum.
The principal wants to have parent input regarding the curriculum.

The situation– participant 4 in group

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4. You want to spend the money to go to Museum of Fine Arts, as you know that these children will never otherwise have this experience. You know that the kindergarten will be going to the Franklin Park Zoo.

The situation– participant 5 in group

5. Observer:

Your job is to watch what goes on in the group as members try to make a decision. You should not participate directly in the discussion.

The group members are not aware that two of the individuals have been assigned to take a similar initial position on the issues being discussed. Watch carefully to see if this pair exerts undue influence on the discussion and final decision of the group.

Feel free to take notes. While you do not have to answer all of the following questions they are provided to give you an idea of what to look for. During the debriefing for this activity you will be asked to summarize and present your observations of the group decision-making process.

Consider the following:

- Did all members have an opportunity to participate in the discussion? Were some excluded? Was an effort made to encourage people to share? Did a few of the members dominate the discussion?
- Did a leader emerge in the discussion or was leadership shared?
- Did people feel free to talk? Did members listen carefully to one another or did they interrupt or cut people off?
- Was the group comfortable with silence?
- Did the group consider several options before zeroing in on one? How many different ideas were expressed? Were ideas changed or combined to produce a new idea?
- How did individuals react when a colleague supported their idea? How did they react when a colleague challenged or disagreed with their idea? In general, were members sensitive to the needs and concerns of each other?
- Did the group make an effort to periodically summarize its progress? How was the final decision made?
- Did some members appear to have reservations about or be displeased with the decision?

The situation– participant 6 in group

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- 6. You access data from a recent K-1 survey see chart. You know that the principal likes to coordinate field trips across the grades.

50 Percent of families responded to survey

	Families currently use	Families would like their children to experience
Children’s Museum	14	20
Franklin Park Zoo	20	35
Science Museum	5	15
African American Museum	3	18
Local community businesses related to curriculum	38	16