

A Model for Collaborative Problem Solving¹

Step 1: Silent Brainstorming

Two minutes for each group member to think and write down his or her ideas.

Step 2: Round Robin Input

Facilitator obtains one item per member—keep going until ideas are exhausted. Ok for member to “pass” if he has no ideas.

Step 3: Discuss & Advocate

Members advocate positions based on two criteria:

1. The impact the idea will have on the problem;
2. How doable is the idea and can the group make it happen?

Use PRES: Position, Reason, Example, Summary

Step 4: Prioritize

Assign points individually:

- Three points: top choice
- Two Points: second choice
- One Point: third choice

Then recorder notes down values assigned to each idea.

Which top two or three ideas emerge?

Step 5: Choose

Start with top idea and advocate using PRES; then the second or, if need be the third.

Take a vote.

¹ From Susan & Peter Glaser, *Be Quiet, Be Heard: The Paradox of Persuasion*, pp. 136-41.