A Model for Collaborative Problem Solving[[1]](#footnote-1)

**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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)