



DECISION- MAKING IN GSAs

So, you've decided whether your club is a peer-support group, activism group, or social group, written your club's mission statement, and chosen your GSA's leadership model... now what? In order to run effective meetings and get things done as a group, your GSA should designate a process for making decisions as an organization, keeping in mind what role your club's advisor will play in decision making. It's important to note that some schools require major decisions to be approved by the student council and/or the administration.

MAJORITY OR 2/3RDS VOTE

- Works best when club members must be present at a meeting to vote
- Publicizing meetings and agendas ahead of time will help boost attendance and ensure club members get to vote on things that are important to them
- This structure is the least time-consuming for clubs with more than 10 members

UNANIMOUS

- Consensus is used to make sure everyone agrees on the decision
- Decisions are achieved through discussion and must be approved by everyone at the meeting
- May raise levels of commitment because everyone is agreeing on a solution
- Requires time, discipline, patience on the part of meeting participants, and a careful and attentive facilitator

TIPS & TRICKS FOR REACHING CONSENSUS ON TOUGH ISSUES

- **Reword the consensus statement**
- **Be patient and open-minded towards different perspectives, understand that objections are just looking out for the best interests of the club**
- **Ask objectors to clearly state their feelings/reasons for objecting and offer constructive ways to fix the problem**
- **See if the statement can be modified to accommodate the objection while still remaining acceptable to everyone else**
- **Try to find consensus by asking, "Can everyone live with this decision?" This doesn't mean that everyone needs to be getting everything what they want**
- **Remember, consensus may not be possible or applicable to every case**

HIERARCHY

- Club officers have the ultimate decision-making power
- This may include additional levels of decision-making power
 - Club leaders
 - Club President
 - Club advisor
 - School administration
- This structure works well for clubs if meeting attendance is unpredictable

USEFUL LINKS



[DECISION MAKING IN GSA CLUBS](#)

[GSA LEADER GUIDE](#)

[JUMPSTART YOUR GSA](#)