

Decision making

The appropriate process to use in reaching a particular group decision can depend on whether truth, or sufficient information, is available, i.e. whether or not a right or best answer exists and can be figured out in the available time.

If truth or sufficient information is available, but not to hand, then someone needs to do the necessary work/ research/ investigation to find it and figure it out. This will be best done by someone with a driving interest in the subject of enquiry, rather than by someone with an interest in justifying or promoting a particular answer or solution.

If truth is not readily apparent or obtainable, then the options are to suffer the uncertainty, use intuition, 'mess' with it to make a 'best guess' or put it to a vote. Voting can achieve quick **agreement** on what most people think the best guess might be. But voting is not about finding truth. Whether there are two, 200 or 2,000 people making the decision, the number making it need have no relationship to its truth. They may all have been hoodwinked or subject to the same conditioning!

So, for some issues, it will be useful to recognise whether the circumstances require a **truth** seeking or an **agreement** seeking process.

It can also be useful to convert matters of preference/ opinion to matters of knowledge through investigation/ research, where possible.

The question of whether **means or ends** are prioritised is also important. If an ends over means approach is taken, by e.g. applying a gag, or railroading the group into taking a vote to deal with disagreement, principle has been dispatched. In religious terms, you've given in to the devil right there! That's the challenge of group self-governance. To work effectively, it requires individual self-governance, which is the subject of other articles also linked to from the Self-governance resources page.