

Order can  
emerge out  
of chaos.

*Margaret  
Wheatly*

## DECISION MAKING

Perhaps the **greatest challenge** for any leader is **decision making**. Any situation provides A LOT of **pluses and minuses and perspectives**, and it is up to the group leader to **assess** them all using available resources (group membership, advisors, history). After asking the set of questions below, leaders can choose the appropriate decision-making style:

- Will one solution/decision be decidedly more rational than any other?
- Do I have sufficient information to make a good decision?
- Do I need the group members to accept the decision for it to be implemented?
- If I have to make the decision by myself, am I reasonably certain the group will back me up?
- Do the group members share in the goals to be reached in solving this problem? Have we addressed this issue before?
- Is conflict within the group likely to arise in certain decisions?

### 5 Decision-Making Styles

As leader you...

1. ...Solve the problem or make the decision yourself, using the information available to you at the time.
2. ...Solve the problem or make the decision yourself, using information you gather from your membership.
3. ...Share the problem with appropriate members, getting their ideas and suggestions without bringing them together as a group. Then you make the decision or solve the problem.
4. ...Share the problem with members as a group, collectively obtaining their ideas and suggestions. Then you make the decision or solve the problem.
5. ...Share the problem with members as a group. Together you generate and evaluate alternatives and attempt to reach consensus on a solution. You accept and implement a solution that has the support of the group.

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