

Quick Decisions

a training tool for preparing action

Purpose/Uses

To generate a variety of possible options for a situation you may be facing soon.
To prepare to respond creatively to situations that require instantaneous decisions.
To help group gain cohesion and confidence.
To prepare for demonstrations or theater exercises.

Description

1. Divide the group into small groups of three or four people each.
2. Explain that you will present a number of situations that require quick responses. (You might collect these situations from the group, before starting, by brainstorming.)
3. Present one situation and give a time limit, usually 30-60 seconds, to come up with a single solution. (Optionally: The group must reach consensus on its response.)
4. Ask groups to report solutions
5. Present additional situations as above. Later, solutions can be roleplayed or evaluated.

Examples

- You're in a nonviolent demonstration and someone in your ranks starts throwing stones at the police. What should you do? Take one minute.
- You are holding a difficult meeting and someone begins to scream. What should you do? Take one minute.
- You're on the playground and some people start beating up on one of your friends. What should you do? Take one minute.
- You and your friend have been sitting on the front steps of your house for 20 minutes waiting for a car pool driver to pick up your 3-year-old. A neighbor, black and in his early 20s, has been sitting across the street on his front steps for the same amount of time. A cruising police car suddenly stops and 2 police officers, both white, get out, rush to the neighbor, roughly force him against a wall and begin searching him. What should you do? Take one minute.

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