

CREATING A CONSENSUS IN PROBLEM SELECTION

REACHING A CONSENSUS

Majority Vote Is Not Necessarily Consensus

ma·jor·i·ty **1.** The greater number or part; a number more than half of the total. **2.** The amount by which the greater number of votes cast, as in an election, exceeds the total number of remaining votes.

con·sen·sus **1.** An opinion or position reached by a group as a whole. **2.** General agreement or accord.

WHAT IS CONSENSUS?

- ◉ Everyone has had a chance to express his/her ideas freely
- ◉ There has been a sharing of different viewpoints and opinions about the problems being considered.
- ◉ No students should feel forced to make a choice he/she did not want because of pressure.
- ◉ There should be some effort to combine the different ideas and opinions into the final agreement.

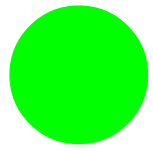
STEPS TO CONSENSUS

1. Discuss each problem, raise questions, present arguments for and against, and consider realistic options for solution.
2. Explore differences and similarities, agreements and disagreements, between and among problems.
3. Make suggestions for combining similar problems or modifying problems.
4. Generate a new problem based on the discussion.

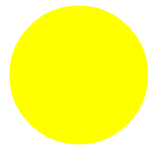
TRUE CONSENSUS COMES WHEN...

1. You create an environment that encourages and supports rational discussion of ideas.
2. Students are allowed to voice diversified opinions and explore different perspectives.
3. Students are not coerced by strong individuals (or the teacher).
4. There must be a process to combine the different opinions into a final consensus while allowing room for disagreement and differences of opinion.

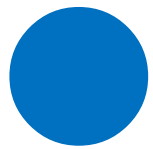
WEIGHTED VOTING



I'm all for the idea



I'm willing to provide support



I'd prefer not to support it