Name: _____ Date: _____

I Second the Motion: How a Group Decides

Circle group

A club, a school board or a town council holds meetings. It needs a way to keep things in order. If everyone talked at once, nothing would get decided. So many groups follow a set of steps. People have used these steps for a very long time.

First, a member makes a motion. A motion is a proposal. It might be "I move that we hold a bake sale." Next, a second member says, "I second the motion." That shows one more person thinks the idea is worth talking about. If nobody seconds it, the idea usually stops there.

Then the group talks about the motion. Members take turns. The person leading the meeting gives each speaker a fair chance. When the talking is done, the group votes. The leader counts the votes. Then the leader says if the motion passed.

These steps can seem slow. But they have good reasons. They protect quiet members, because everyone gets a turn. They also stop one loud voice from running the meeting.

Questions

1. What is a motion?

_____

_____

2. Why does a motion need a second?

_____

_____

3. What usually happens if nobody seconds a motion?

_____

_____

4. Who gives each speaker a fair chance?

_____

_____

5. What does the group do when the talking is done?

_____

_____

6. How do these steps protect quiet members?

_____

_____

Words to know

motion: a proposal that a member offers at a meeting
proposal: an idea that is offered for others to think about
passed: won enough votes to be accepted

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

I Second the Motion: How a Group Decides

Triangle group

When a club, a school board or a town council holds a meeting, it needs a way to keep things orderly. Otherwise everyone might talk at once, and nothing would get decided. Many groups follow a set of steps that has been used for a very long time.

First, a member makes a motion. A motion is a proposal, such as "I move that we hold a bake sale." Next, a second member says, "I second the motion." This shows that at least one other person thinks the idea deserves to be talked about. If nobody seconds it, the idea usually stops right there.

Then the group discusses the motion. Members take turns, and the person leading the meeting makes sure each speaker gets a fair chance. When the talking is done, the group votes. The leader counts the votes and announces whether the motion passed.

These steps may seem slow, but they have good reasons. They protect quieter members, because everyone gets a turn. They also keep one loud voice from running the whole meeting.

Questions

1. What is a motion?

_____

_____

2. Why does a motion need a second?

_____

_____

3. What usually happens if nobody seconds a motion?

_____

_____

4. Who makes sure each speaker gets a fair chance?

_____

_____

5. What does the group do when the talking is done?

_____

_____

6. How do these steps protect quieter members?

_____

_____

Words to know

orderly: neat and calm, with everything done in the right order
motion: a proposal that a member offers at a meeting
proposal: an idea that is offered for others to think about
discusses: talks about something together
passed: won enough votes to be accepted

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

I Second the Motion: How a Group Decides

Square group

Whenever a club, a school board or a town council holds a meeting, it requires a dependable method for keeping the discussion orderly. Otherwise everyone might speak simultaneously, and nothing would ever be decided. For that reason, many organizations follow a sequence of steps that has been used for a very long time.

First, a member makes a motion, which is a proposal such as "I move that we hold a bake sale." Next, a second member declares, "I second the motion." This demonstrates that at least one other person believes the idea deserves to be discussed. If nobody seconds the motion, the idea usually ends right there.

After that, the group discusses the motion. Members take turns speaking, and the person leading the meeting ensures that each speaker receives a fair opportunity. Once the discussion is finished, the group votes, and the leader counts the votes and announces whether the motion passed.

These steps may appear slow, yet they serve important purposes. They protect quieter members, since everyone is guaranteed a turn, and they prevent a single forceful voice from dominating the entire meeting.

Questions

1. What is a motion?

_____

_____

2. Why does a motion need a second?

_____

_____

3. What usually happens if nobody seconds a motion?

_____

_____

4. Who ensures that each speaker receives a fair opportunity?

_____

_____

5. What does the group do once the discussion is finished?

_____

_____

6. How do these steps protect quieter members?

_____

_____

Words to know

orderly: neat and calm, with everything done in the right order
motion: a proposal that a member offers at a meeting
proposal: an idea that is offered for others to think about
discusses: talks about something together
passed: won enough votes to be accepted

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: I Second the Motion: How a Group Decides

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: I Second the Motion: How a Group Decides

Easier · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. A proposal for the group to talk about and vote on.
2. It shows that one more person thinks the idea is worth talking about.
3. The idea usually stops there.
4. The person leading the meeting.
5. It votes, and the leader says if the motion passed.
6. Everyone gets a turn, so one loud voice cannot run the meeting.

Triangle: I Second the Motion: How a Group Decides

This passage · 176 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.9

1. A proposal for the group to talk about and vote on.
2. It shows that at least one other person thinks the idea deserves to be talked about.
3. The idea usually stops there.
4. The person leading the meeting.
5. It votes, and the leader announces whether the motion passed.
6. Everyone gets a turn, so one loud voice cannot take over the meeting.

Square: I Second the Motion: How a Group Decides

Harder · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.2

1. A proposal for the group to discuss and vote on.
2. It demonstrates that at least one other person believes the idea deserves discussion.
3. The idea usually ends there.
4. The person leading the meeting.
5. It votes, and the leader announces whether the motion passed.
6. Everyone is guaranteed a turn, so a single forceful voice cannot dominate the meeting.