Name: _____ Date: _____

A Meeting That Cannot Start: The Quorum Rule

Circle group

A town council has nine members. One night there is an important vote. Only three members come. Can those three decide for the whole town? Most groups say no. The rule that stops them is called a quorum.

A quorum is the smallest number of members who must be there. Then the group can do its official work. Often it is a majority. A majority is more than half. For nine members, that is five. If fewer than five come, the group can talk. But it cannot hold a binding vote.

The rule fixes a problem. Without it, a few people could pick a night when others are busy. Then they could decide without everyone. A quorum makes sure enough people are there to be fair.

Groups set their own number in their bylaws. It is not always a majority. A big club might pick a smaller number. Then meetings can still happen. A group with very serious work might need more.

This shows why going to meetings matters. One more person can be the difference. Then the group can decide, or it has to wait.

Questions

1. What is a quorum?

_____

_____

2. How many members make a quorum for nine members, if a majority is needed?

_____

_____

3. What can a group do if it has no quorum?

_____

_____

4. Why might a big club pick a smaller quorum?

_____

_____

5. How does a quorum help members who could not come?

_____

_____

6. Why does going to meetings matter?

_____

_____

Words to know

quorum: the smallest number of members needed to hold a vote
majority: more than half of a group
official: done in the proper way by a group or government
bylaws: the written rules a group makes for itself
binding: must be obeyed once it is decided

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: _____

A Meeting That Cannot Start: The Quorum Rule

Triangle group

Imagine a town council with nine members. On the night of an important vote, only three of them show up. Could those three decide something for the whole town? Most groups say no, and the rule that stops them is called a quorum.

A quorum is the smallest number of members who must be present before a group can do official business. In many groups it is a majority, which means more than half. For a council of nine, that would be five. If fewer than five arrive, the meeting may talk, but it cannot hold a binding vote.

The rule solves a simple problem. Without it, a few people could slip a decision past everyone else by choosing a night when others were busy or unaware. A quorum makes sure that a decision belongs to enough of the group to be fair.

Groups set their own numbers in their bylaws, so a quorum is not always a majority. A large club might choose a smaller share so that meetings can still happen. A group that deals with very serious matters might require more.

The rule also shows why attending matters. Showing up is part of a member's job, because one extra person can be the difference between a decision and a meeting that must wait for another day.

Questions

1. What is a quorum?

_____

_____

2. If a majority is needed, how many members make a quorum for a council of nine?

_____

_____

3. What can a meeting without a quorum still do?

_____

_____

4. Why might a large club choose a smaller quorum?

_____

_____

5. How does the quorum rule protect members who could not come?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say showing up is part of a member's job?

_____

_____

Words to know

quorum: the smallest number of members needed to hold a vote
majority: more than half of a group
official: done in the proper way by a group or government
bylaws: the written rules a group makes for itself
binding: must be obeyed once it is decided

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: _____

A Meeting That Cannot Start: The Quorum Rule

Square group

Picture a town council made up of nine members. On the night of an important vote, only three of them arrive. Would it be right for those three to decide something on behalf of the entire town? Most organizations say it would not, and the rule that prevents it is known as a quorum.

A quorum is the smallest number of members who must be present before a group is allowed to conduct official business. In many groups the number is a majority, meaning more than half of the members. For a council of nine, that works out to five. If fewer than five members are in the room, the meeting may discuss matters freely, but it cannot hold a binding vote.

The rule addresses a straightforward problem. Without it, a handful of people could slip a decision past everyone else by choosing an evening when the others were busy or simply unaware. A quorum ensures that any decision belongs to enough of the group to be considered fair.

Each group sets its own number in its bylaws, so a quorum is not always a majority. A large club might select a smaller share so that meetings can still take place, whereas a group that handles very serious matters might demand more.

The rule also illustrates why attendance matters. Showing up is part of a member's responsibility, because a single additional person can mean the difference between a decision and a meeting that has to wait for another day.

Questions

1. How is a quorum defined?

_____

_____

2. If a majority is required, how many members make a quorum for a council of nine?

_____

_____

3. What is a meeting without a quorum allowed to do?

_____

_____

4. Why might a large club select a smaller quorum?

_____

_____

5. In what way does a quorum protect members who were unable to attend?

_____

_____

6. What does the writer mean by calling attendance part of a member's responsibility?

_____

_____

Words to know

quorum: the smallest number of members needed to hold a vote
majority: more than half of a group
official: done in the proper way by a group or government
bylaws: the written rules a group makes for itself
binding: must be obeyed once it is decided

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: A Meeting That Cannot Start: The Quorum Rule

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

Circle: A Meeting That Cannot Start: The Quorum Rule

Easier · 186 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. The smallest number of members who must be there to do official work.
2. Five.
3. It can talk, but it cannot hold a binding vote.
4. So that meetings can still happen.
5. A few people cannot decide for the whole group.
6. One more person can decide whether the group can make a decision.

Triangle: A Meeting That Cannot Start: The Quorum Rule

This passage · 219 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.4

1. The smallest number of members who must be present before a group can do official business.
2. Five.
3. It can talk, but it cannot hold a binding vote.
4. So that meetings can still happen.
5. It stops a few people from deciding for the whole group.
6. One extra person can decide whether the group is able to make a decision.

Square: A Meeting That Cannot Start: The Quorum Rule

Harder · 249 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.7

1. It is the smallest number of members who must be present before a group can conduct official business.
2. Five.
3. It may discuss matters, but it cannot hold a binding vote.
4. So that its meetings can still take place.
5. It prevents a handful of people from making a decision for the whole group.
6. One additional person can decide whether the group is able to make a decision at all.