

Leadership/Decision-Making Styles

Autocratic: When the leader ignores the advice/experiences of the group and makes his own decisions.

Advantages: Decisions are reached quickly.

Disadvantages: Other members of the group may have useful knowledge/experience that are ignored.

Democratic: When all members of the group vote and the majority rules. The leader has just one vote.

Advantages: Advice/experience from all members are heard.

Disadvantages: Not all members of the group will agree with the decision.

Consensual: When all members of the group must agree before a decision is made.

Advantages: Everyone is happy with the decision.

Disadvantages: Very slow, sometimes unworkable.

Laissez-Faire: When the leader lets the other members of the group make decisions for him/her.

Advantages: Strong members of the group can make good decisions for the leader.

Disadvantages: Chaos if the group is not motivated.