



Working with Groups:

Worst-Best

Sometimes groups get stuck on an alternative or option, and they need a tool to help them move forward. By listing the worst, the best, and what likely will happen, groups often can see that an option has less risk than imagined.

1. On a large sheet of paper, list the option being debated. Then draw two columns on the sheet.

“If we implemented this, what is the worst thing that might happen?”

“If we implemented this, what is the best thing that might happen?”

2. Then open it up for discussion and record all ideas that are given by the group. Use as many sheets of paper as you need to capture the comments made by group members.
3. Now ask, “If we implemented this, what likely would happen?” Record the remarks.

Often the issues listed under the “worst” scenario can then be discussed further and the option modified to reduce the perceived risk.

Reference: University of Minnesota Facilitation Resources. (2001). *Making group decisions*. In partnership with the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. (5)24.