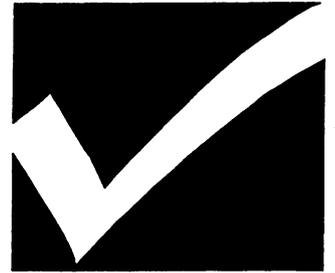


Methods of Decision-Making



Voting

With this method, the decision is made based on which choice gets the most votes. This is called a "simply majority." With three choices, the decision could be made by as little as 34% of the group (four out of ten people). A "true majority" would require 50% plus one (six out of ten people). With multiple choices a true majority may take several rounds of voting, eliminating the lowest choices each time until reaching the necessary majority. Using the voting method of decision-making has its value, particularly with very large groups. Democratic political models are based on voting as a method of decision-making. On the surface it may seem the most "fair" method, however, it typically leaves people feeling like either winners or losers, and does little to create mutual ownership of a decision within a group.

Authoritarian

One person has full authority for the decision and makes it alone. The group is informed of the decision, but not involved in the process. Decisions are often expressed as directives. This model maintains a sense of "order" within an organization. In the United States the authoritarian approach is typically used in the business world, where "the boss" has authority for decisions which are then passed on to employees. This method is "quick", since it requires no time for discussion, however, it also results in little investment on the part of the group. The tendency toward apathy and/or conflict is high since members may feel left out, discounted, or rejected. Obviously, the more significant the decision, the stronger the feelings will be in the group.