

ICE CREAM FOR ONE

Focus To help students reach a group decision within a short time span.

Group Size Entire class

Time Required One, 15-minute session

Materials Ice cream bar for each student
(You may substitute some other food item such as donuts, licorice, candy, etc.)

Setting Standard classroom

Process **Prior to Class:**
Purchase or get donation of food items, one per student.

Activity:

1. Divide the class into groups of four to six.
2. Give each group an ice cream bar and tell them that they have five minutes to decide on who gets the ice cream bar. (It must go to only one person! It can't be divided.) Groups must come up with their own criteria and rationale for the recipient of the ice cream bar. This decision must be made within the 5-minute time frame. If they cannot decide, they lose the bar!
3. At the end of the 5 minutes, have each group summarize their group decision-making process.
4. Give an ice cream bar (or other food item) to each member of the class to enjoy while you discuss the questions below.

Summary Items
(Questions to help students understand and apply to "real life.")

How did you feel about your process?
How did you feel about the decision or lack of one?
What factor did the time limit play in your decision?
What decisions in "real life" deserve more time?
Are there decisions that can be made in 5 minutes or less?
How does your leadership team make group decisions? Is there room for improvement?