

Decision Making

Evergreen Boys State University

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Decision Making Activity

- Divide into five teams

The Scenario

- Your group was traveling on a plane that just crashed on an ice sheet in the Arctic. Both the pilot and the co-pilot were killed in the crash. It is mid-January, and you are in Northern Canada. The daily temperature is 25 below zero, and the night time temperature is 40 below zero. There is snow on the ground, and the countryside is wooded with several creeks criss-crossing the area. The nearest town is 20 miles away. You are all dressed in city clothes appropriate for a business meeting. There are a few items left on the plane that may be helpful.

The Challenge

- You have no more than five minutes to get five items off the plane to ensure survival of your group before the plane falls through the ice.
- As a group decide, which five items to save from the plane off the list you are about to see and rank them in order of importance.
- As soon as your group makes a final decision on items and importance rank, your team must sit and raise your hands.

Items You Can Salvage:

- A ball of steel wool
- A small ax
- A loaded .45-caliber pistol
- Can of Crisco shortening
- Newspapers (one per person)
- Cigarette lighter (without fluid)
- A compass
- Extra shirt and pants for each person
- 20x20 ft. piece of heavy-duty canvas
- A sectional air map made of plastic
- One quart of 100-proof whiskey
- Family-size chocolate bars (one per person)

Your Answers

What Were Your Considerations?

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- The Cold – preserving body heat
- Shock – quick decision making using logic to stay calm
- Being Rescued – how will you get help
- Distance to Help – too far to go, what you need where you are

What the Experts Say

- 1. Cigarette Lighter (without fluid) – Cold is the gravest danger. Even without fluid you can create a spark for warmth and signaling for help.
- 2. Ball of Steel Wool – is the best material available for catching a spark and supporting the beginnings of a flame/fire.
- 3. Extra Shirt and Pants for Each Person – Besides warmth, clothes can also be used for shelter, signaling, bedding, bandages, string and fuel for a fire.

What the Experts Say

- 4. Can of Crisco shortening – You can use the mirror like lid for a signaling device. It can also be rubbed on the skin for protection from cold or used as fuel to build a fire. The can could be useful as a cup.
- 5. 20x20 ft. Piece of Canvas – Perfect for making a tent. Can also be used as ground cover to keep people dry from snow.

Scoring

- 2 points for each answer in the top 5 matching the experts
- 1 extra point if you had items in the correct position
- 1st and 2nd team finished get 2 points
- 3rd, 4th and 5th teams finished get 1 point
- No points if you took the entire 5 minutes and were told to stop.

Defining the Problem

- What are variables
- What can you control
- Who does it impact

Identifying Solutions

- Knowing goals
- Brain Storming Ideas
- Focusing efforts

Evaluating Solutions

- Pros vs Cons
- Cost/Benefit Analysis
- Reality Check

Narrowing Choices

- Viable Options
- Greatest Benefit
- Accomplishing Goal

Taking Action and Ending Debate

- Who gets to decide
- Who has authority
- Formalities
- **JUST DECIDE ALREADY!!**

Evaluating Decisions

- What did you learn?
- Did it work out like you planned?
 - Fail Fast
 - Adjust course
 - Use information learned to make new decisions

Applying it to Boys State

- How will you pass ordinances and debate bills?
- How will you partner and work with other cities/counties?
- What will your political party platform be? What issues are a priority?

Questions