Survival

Reach consensus as a group about how to "survive" the scenario

TIME	MATERIALS	TEAM STAGE
10-20 minutes	Paper, pens, list of objects	Storming, Norming

SUMMARY

This activity asks groups to rank items in order of importance to their survival in a certain scenario. Participants must be creative and communicative as they try to problem solve, resolve conflict between members, and reach consensus.

SET UP

- Decide on a "survival scenario". Examples:
  - Your group's plane has crash landed on a deserted island.
  - You woke up in the middle of a zombie apocalypse.
  - You must save the world from an alien invasion.
- Create a list of 12-15 items and objects your group can use to survive this scenario. They could be actually useful items (like water, rope, and matches) or random items (like tape, a chair, and a trash can), it is up to you.
- Print a copy of the list to give to each group, or prepare a poster with the list.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide participants into smaller groups of four or five.
- Pass out a piece of paper and a pen to each small group.
- Tell participants that their objective is to determine the usefulness of each item listed based on the given situation.
- They will need to rank the items in order of usefulness (item number 1 is the most useful) and provide their reasoning.
- They must reach consensus, meaning that everyone must agree on the final ranking of items.

VARIATIONS

- Start by having participants decide whether they should go out and seek help or stay put and wait to be found.
- Ask participants to rank the items individually before breaking them up into small groups. Have them share their rationale before challenging them to reach consensus as a group about what items are most useful.
- Make up a "series of unfortunate events" that may occur at any point during the decision-making process. These events may change groups priorities or render certain items more or less useful depending on the event. For example, *"it starts to storm on the island you are stranded on"* or *"one of your group members starts to become ill for seemingly no reason"*.

VARIATIONS *(continued)*

Small Group: To facilitate this activity for a small group, have all participants come to a consensus together instead of dividing them into small groups.

Online: To facilitate this activity virtually, provide the scenario and list of items in the chat or in a shared document that everyone can refer to. Put each group into a breakout room to discuss and make their decisions, then bring everyone back to the main meeting room to share.

[click here for video]

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

- What:
  - How do you feel about the final list your group came up with?
  - What was easy or difficult about getting everyone in your group to agree?

- So What:
  - Why is consensus important with collaborative work?
  - What are some factors that can make coming to a consensus difficult? What are some factors that can make it easy?

- Now What:
  - What are some examples of times when your group may need to come to a consensus?
  - How can you help your group arrive at a consensus?

  Facilitator Note: These questions can be used to guide your debrief, however, pick the questions that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed.