

# Public Speaking Activity

## Chapter 18-Speaking in Groups Lost on the Moon

The purpose of this activity is to help develop the decision making process within your group. Answer the questions in the following scenario.

Your spaceship has just crash-landed on the lighted surface of the moon. You were scheduled to rendezvous with a command ship 200 miles away, also on the lighted side of the moon, but the rough landing has ruined your ship and destroyed all the equipment on board, except for the 12 items listed below.

Your crew's survival depends on reaching the command ship, so you must choose the most critical items available for the 200-mile trip. Your task is to rank the 12 items according to their importance in allowing your crew to survive the 200-mile journey to the command ship. In the column titled "Your rank," place the number 1 by the most important item, the number 2 by the second most important item, and so on through number 12, the least important.

Your next task is to reach a consensus ranking of the 12 items needed to survive the journey to the command ship 200 miles away. This means that the ranking for each of the 12 items should be agreed upon by each member of the group before it becomes a part of the group's decision. Here are some guides to use in reaching consensus:

1. Don't argue stubbornly for your own point of view just because it is yours. Listen to other members of the group and be willing to change your views on the basis of reason and logic.
2. On the other hand, don't change your mind simply to avoid disagreement. Seek out differences of opinion and try to get every member involved in the decision-making process. The more information you have, the better chance you will have of making a sound decision.
3. Avoid such techniques as majority vote, averaging, flipping coins, and bargaining.

Item	Your Rank	NASA Rank	Difference	Group Rank	NASA Rank	Difference
box of matches						
food concentrate						
50 feet of nylon rope						
parachute silk						
two .45 caliber pistols						
solar-powered portable heating unit						
two 100-pound tanks of oxygen						
map of the moon's constellation						
self-inflating life raft						
magnetic compass						
five gallons of water						
solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter						