

HOW DO I HANDLE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS IN A GROUP?

Quiet and unresponsive group

Allow time for group members to warm up. Try asking non-threatening questions, ice-breakers that are easy to answer. For example, "What do you want to get out of the group meeting today?"

If you can't move past a point

If group members keep talking about the same thing and it's time to move on, thank them for their participation and how much they have contributed to the conversation. Set aside some time at the end of the meeting to pick the topic back up or talk about it the following week. However; if you feel the discussion is valid, keep the discussion going. Be responsible with time but be flexible. Focus on the outcome you are working to achieve rather than being driven by the agenda.

Strong Personalities

Sometimes we have some strong personalities in our group that really want to argue their point. Thank them for their contribution and encourage them to see the other person's point of view.

Uncomfortable Group

Let's face it, starting a community group can be weird. You sit in a room with a bunch of people you don't know and then you are supposed to share your feelings. Take time to acknowledge the awkward, be real and human. Share a story of when you felt that way in a group to help ease the tension and set the example of vulnerability from the leader.