

Voting with colours / thumbs up / ...

Short description	Voting with colours or thumbs up is a simple participatory method in which participants express their opinion or attitude using colours or hand gestures. It allows for quick, visual feedback and supports inclusive decision-making or reflection within a group.
Objectives	The objective of this method is to involve all participants in the process, to collect quick feedback or opinions, to support reflection and discussion, and to make the level of agreement or disagreement within the group visible.
Duration	5-15 minutes, depending on the number of questions and the depth of the follow-up discussion.
Social form	The method is carried out individually within a group or plenary setting, where all participants respond at the same time.
Materials and organisation	The activity can be organised using coloured cards, stickers or pieces of paper, typically in green, yellow and red, or without any materials when using the thumbs up or thumbs down variation. The space should allow all participants to clearly see each other's responses.
Preparation	The moderator prepares the questions, topics or options to be evaluated and clearly explains the meaning of each colour or gesture in advance. It is important to ensure that every participant understands the process and has the opportunity to take part.

Step-by-step description

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderator introduces the topic, question or options to be assessed. Next, the meaning of the colours or gestures is explained, for example green meaning agreement, yellow uncertainty and red disagreement. 2. Participants then express their opinion individually by showing a card or using a hand gesture. 3. The moderator observes and briefly summarises the overall outcome. 4. Finally, a short discussion may follow, especially if there are differing views.
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Variations and differentiation

The method can be adapted by using more than three colours to create a scale of agreement, by allowing anonymous voting with stickers, by working in pairs or small groups before voting, or by asking participants to explain the reason for their choice.

Practical notes

This method works well with both small and large groups and is especially useful for quick decision-making. A safe and respectful environment is essential so that participants feel comfortable expressing disagreement. For sensitive topics, anonymous voting is recommended. While the method is fast and engaging, it should not replace more in-depth analysis when complex decisions are required.

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