



# Himalayan Decision Module

# Himalayan Decision Part 1

**Appropriate Time:** 40 minutes

(10-minute video, 15-minute breakout, 15-minute report out)

**Lesson Purpose:**

- Students experience a fun and challenging situation of group decision making.
- Students present their decision and reasoning to the class.
- The diversity of decisions and the differing approaches of the students are revealed by the different approaches and solutions in the room
- Students are positioned to learn more about Decision Quality and have already begun to interact and have fun together.

**Activity:**

1. Show the Part 1 video that presents a decision situation <https://youtu.be/Lu3KFtKkMNI>.
2. Have students individually write what they would have decided to do and why, if in that situation.
3. Divide students into small groups and instruct them to pretend that they are the group in the Himalayans. Give them a large piece of paper on which to brainstorm, draw, etc.
4. In 15 minutes, each group should be ready to present their decision and why they made it to the rest of the class.
5. Each group should also be ready to present their level of confidence in their decision. Their confidence should be a number on a percentage scale from 0 to 100%, with 100% being absolute confidence, e.g., “We are 62% confident we made the best decision.”
6. Monitor the groups to encourage they ask questions and think creatively about their possible solutions to the Himalayan problem.

**Notes:** Don't tell the students the following trip specifics until they ask so they practice gathering relevant information.

- 15 students
- 2 leaders
- 1 local guide
- Took 4 days trekking with horses from Kathmandu to tiny village
- 10 days left in the scheduled trip
- About 3-hour hike by local on alternative route from village to Tal
- Tiny village has no electricity
- Only 1 satellite phone
- \$10,000 emergency fund

**Debrief:**

“We'll see what the Himalayan students actually did later. Next, we're going to learn more about how to make better decisions.”



# Himalayan Decision Part 2

**Appropriate Time:** 25 minutes

(4-minute video, 15-minute discussion, 5-minute video)

**Lesson Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Identify and explain the key elements of a good decision.
- Recite that a decision is only as strong as the weakest link.
- Recognize the gap between typical decision behavior and quality decisions.

**Activity:**

- Show the Decision Focus video <https://www.decisioneducation.org/decision-focus-chain>.
- Review the links of the chain with the class.
- Discuss what makes this Himalayan decision difficult. Use the discussion to motivate the reason for a framework that helps to handle the complexity presented by decisions.
- Ask students to describe the key sources of uncertainty and the main values that were important to their group for the Himalayan decision.
- Show the Himalayan Decision Tree Explained video <https://youtu.be/APohqUOUk0I>. They only need to understand how the tree summarizes a lot of information, helps to identify key questions to investigate, and quantifies the relative efficacy of each solution option.
- Highlight for students how much the decision was improved through further exploration of the areas for improvement that came from looking closer at the elements of the decision.
- Show the Part 2 video <https://youtu.be/OqOJzLZBDo4>.

**Debrief:**

“Great job putting yourselves in those trekkers’ shoes. Making personal decisions and decisions as a group are learned skills that take practice and can be Improved. Learn more at [decisioneducation.org/decision-focus-videos](https://www.decisioneducation.org/decision-focus-videos).”

