

# How to organise a group discussion in one of your Scout meetings



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## Step 1 – Decide when

Talk about having a discussion on one of the topics. Decide when this could happen, and then start planning!

## Step 2 – Be prepared

It's always best to be prepared, ensure everyone involved has the Information Sheet on the chosen topic which is available to download at [www.scouts.org.uk/bigissues](http://www.scouts.org.uk/bigissues)

The sheets have lots of links to websites that have more information; those involved can do their own searches on the internet and in the local library. Encourage them to make notes of some of the most important or interesting things that they read. Ultimately, it's not about who knows the most, but it'll help if everyone has done a bit of preparation on the chosen topic.

### Hint:

Try and get everyone to speak in the discussion, not just the loudest people. It's important that everyone has their say – ask the question again to people who are being a bit quiet.

## Step 3 – Question time

It's time to start thinking of questions that need to be talked about in the discussion.

The questions we are looking for

young people's views on are [www.scouts.org.uk/bigissues](http://www.scouts.org.uk/bigissues)

Think about how you are going to record the discussion. You could use a pen and paper to try and write what people are saying, but there are loads of ways you could record the session in a much easier and more interesting way... what about using a camcorder or a webcam? Or using Twitter to type some of the important bits down and onto the internet for everyone to see straight away? What about using MSN? Or Facebook?

### Hint:

Try finding interesting, interactive websites so that you're not just reading all the time!

Have a look at

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/playspace/>

## Step 4 – Go let it out

Once you have had the discussion, now you have to think what you are going to do with all the really interesting things that were said! Firstly, write it all down and let everyone who was at the Scout meeting see if they can think of anything else that was said.

After that, you can post it onto the comments sections at [www.scouts.org.uk/bigissues](http://www.scouts.org.uk/bigissues), send it to friends and even send it to your local MP!