

Consensus Builders: Finding Common Ground

Have you ever worked with others to accomplish a goal or solve a problem? Did everyone get along? How did you work out your disagreements? Who had the final say?

A **consensus** is an agreement that everyone supports. To reach a consensus, everyone must work together to make decisions that are good for everyone. You can help reach a consensus by listening to others and being respectful of their opinions and ideas.

Read the following problem and study the picture below. Come up with ways to solve the problem and reach a consensus on the best action to take. Write your answers in the notepad below.



Problem:

At the end of lunch, the cafeteria is very messy. There are napkins on the floor, there is food left on the tables and in the seats, and there are trays not returned to the kitchen.

An illustration of a messy cafeteria. In the background, there is a service counter with various food items and drinks. In the foreground, there are several tables with red chairs. The tables are messy, with food and drinks left on them. On the floor, there are napkins, a banana peel, a red paper cup, and a white tray. To the right of the cafeteria scene is a large, spiral-bound notepad with many blank, lined pages. A yellow pencil is positioned vertically on the right side of the notepad.