



What is Group Think?

At the 2024 State Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Contest, there will be a new segment added to the competition called Group Think. The purpose of Group Think is to help you develop the skills you will need when the decision to be made is no longer an individual decision, but rather one that needs to be determined by a group. In its simplest form, group decision-making can be described in five steps:

1. Determine the issue or problem. State the facts.
2. Examine options and solutions to the problem.
3. List the personal or social goals (or criteria) bearing on the problem.
4. Evaluate the alternatives according to the goals or criteria.
5. Make a decision based on the evaluation.

When making decisions, it is important to consider and evaluate more than one course of action. Therefore, part of the Group Think process is to develop many options for “solving” the situation. Alternatives often include personal values. The Group Think helps you be aware of your value preferences and the value preferences of others. You then learn how these similarities and differences intersect, and how the group can work to make decisions that include the most desirable outcomes for all involved.

Group Think Structure

Teams have 10 minutes of processing time. A guideline for using this time is:

- 3 minutes to read and think through the situation or problem
- 7 minutes to discuss and begin making decisions
 - It is not required, but it is often helpful to use a Product Comparison Sheet. The Product Comparison Sheet helps the team keep notes for the evaluation of the criteria vs. the suggested alternatives. It may also be helpful during the team presentation.
- In the discussion, the team should cover these **five decision-making steps**:
 - State the situation or problem.
 - List the alternatives found in the situation or products and add your own options as determined necessary.
 - List the criteria stated in the case study and add other criteria as determined.
 - Evaluate the alternatives based on the criteria.
 - Select the best choice(s) for the situation, and explain.
- Don't limit the ideas for solutions to just a few. Think creatively and come up with many alternatives.
- As a team, begin planning the presentation to the judge(s).
- Judges will be listening to what is said and watching the group dynamics.
- Teams will be warned when they have 2 minutes left of their discussion time.

Each team will have the opportunity to present their final statement. The presentation should be no longer than 2 minutes. The presentation should include an overview of the five decision-making steps, including the best choice or final decision.

GEORGIA

4-H COTTON BOLL &
CONSUMER JUDGING

Group Think Score Sheet

County: _____

Team Participation (40 points possible)

Score

Participation	All team members are actively engaged and participate (1-10 points)	_____ / 10
Reading	Speaking and listening skills are demonstrated by each team member (1-10 points)	_____ / 10
Discussing	Speaking and listening skills are demonstrated by each team member (1-10 points)	_____ / 10
Summarizing	Reaching consensus based on discussion of options and standards (1-10 points)	_____ / 10

Team Process (60 points possible)

Alternative Solutions	Variety of options generated (1-10 points)	_____ / 10
Definitions	Defining terms are used to make decision in terms of the best outcome for the team (1-10 points)	_____ / 10
Solution	Conclusions reached are explained and reasonable for the solution (10 - 20 points)	_____ / 20
Presentation	Total team effort is shown: 1. Every team member contributes to reach group consensus (1-10 points) 2. A clear statement of the group decision is presented to the judges (1-10 points)	_____ / 20

Maximum of 100 points possible.

Total: _____