

Leadership Styles



Laissez-Faire

- very little participation by leader in an authoritarian role
- used when working with people of equal qualifications
- “the principle of letting people do as they please” Gage 1983 (?)
- “laid back” approach - leading without being up front and in the spotlight
- getting a group to head towards a goal by suggesting and nudging them in the right direction

Democratic

- decisions made through group discussions and votes
- used when there is a specialist in the field
- “...a form of government in which power is held by the people and is exercised by them directly or through their elected representatives.” (NGS 1989)
- “a government that is... controlled by the people who live under it.” Gage 1983
- India, United States are the largest democracies
- a leader is obviously present but more or less mediates decisions based on input from the entire population

Autocratic

- decisions made by one person without consult of anyone but himself
- often used in emergency situations where time is of the essence
- “a government having absolute power over its citizens; absolute authority; ruling without checks or limitations” Gage 1983
- since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, North Korea, China, Laos, Vietnam, and Cuba are the only communist countries left on Earth
- leader determines all policies and gives orders