

# The 3 Most Common Decision-Making Styles: Analytical, Intuitive, and Collaborative

# **Analytical Decision-Making**

For leaders who rely on data and facts

#### **Strengths**

- Thorough: Analytical leaders dig deep into data, ensuring decisions are backed by evidence.
- Logical: This approach minimizes emotion and focuses on facts, which often leads to wellreasoned outcomes.

#### Challenges

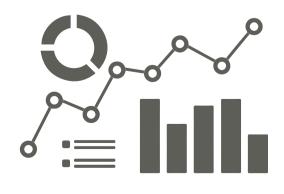
- Analysis Paralysis: The desire for more data can lead to delays in decision-making, especially when all options seem equally viable.
- Over-complication: Focusing too much on details can cloud the bigger picture, making it harder to identify the best path forward.

#### **Tips for Improvement**

- Set a Data Deadline: Give yourself a hard deadline for gathering data to prevent endless analysis. Once the deadline passes, trust the information you've collected.
- Prioritize Critical Factors: Not all data points carry the same weight. Focus on the few that will have the greatest impact on your decision.
- Delegate and Collaborate: Involve trusted colleagues to provide insight and prevent overthinking. They may help you move forward when you're stuck in the details.

#### When to Lean on Intuition

• When the data is inconclusive or time is of the essence, analytical leaders can benefit from trusting their instincts. Start small and make adjustments as necessary.



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### **Intuitive Decision-Making**

For leaders who rely on gut feelings and experience

### **Strengths**

- Fast Decisions: Intuitive leaders can make quick decisions, especially in high-pressure situations.
- Past Experience: Drawing from previous successes and failures helps leaders navigate complex situations effectively.

#### **Challenges**

- Overlooking Details: Relying too much on gut instinct can lead to missed details or overlooked risks.
- Biases: Intuition is often shaped by personal biases, which can cloud judgment and lead to less objective decisions.

#### **Tips for Improvement**

- Check Your Biases: Before making a decision, reflect on whether your intuition is influenced by past experiences, assumptions, or biases.
- Gather Feedback: When possible, seek feedback from others, especially in cases where your gut is telling you something contrary to the data.
- Use Data as a Backup: Blend intuition with data. Rely on your gut for quick decisions, but back it up with data when the stakes are high.

#### When to Lean on Data

• For decisions involving large-scale projects or substantial investments, take a step back and review the data to ensure your gut feeling aligns with facts.



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## **Collaborative Decision-Making Guide**

For leaders who involve others in the decision process

#### **Strengths**

- Increases Buy-In: Collaborative decision-making ensures that team members feel heard and valued, which boosts engagement and commitment.
- Diverse Perspectives: Involving others brings diverse perspectives and ideas, often leading to more well-rounded and innovative solutions.

#### **Challenges**

- Slower Process: Involving multiple people can slow down the decision-making process, especially if consensus is difficult to reach.
- Diluted Accountability: Too many opinions can blur accountability, leading to unclear ownership of the final decision.

### **Tips for Improvement**

- Set Clear Boundaries: Define when collaboration is necessary and when it isn't. Not every decision requires input from the whole team.
- Speed Up the Process: Establish clear timelines for collecting input and making decisions to avoid delays.
- Maintain Accountability: Even in a collaborative environment, ensure there is a designated decision-maker who has the final say and is responsible for outcomes.

#### When to Lean on Intuition

• In high-stakes situations where there's no time for full collaboration, trust your instincts to make quick decisions. However, seek feedback afterward to refine future decisions.



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