



Tips Discussion Activity

Facilitators' Instructions: Ask trustees to locate the Tip Sheet for **Module 3**.

Select one of the three versions of this activity (below) and take the group through the process. All three versions promote collaboration and build trust. The particular strengths of each version are in brackets following each set of instructions.

Version 1: Using the “Tip Sheet” for this module and working with your elbow partner, select the five tips that you agree are the most important for you as trustees in defining and understanding your role. (This low-risk version is good for a group of trustees that don’t know each other very well.)

Version 2: Using the “Tip Sheet” for this module and working with your elbow partner, rate the tips on the sheet from one to five, where one means “not very important” and five means “extremely important”. You may have as many or as few items in each category as you wish, but be prepared to defend your decisions. (This version requires trustees to practice their evaluation skills and their ability to defend their position in front of the board.)

Version 3: Using the “Tip Sheet” for this module, select no more than three tips that you believe will help you be a better school board trustee. Keep in mind that everyone is at a different stage of trustee and leadership development. Once you have determined your list, discuss your choices with your elbow partner. Finally, commit to a mini-plan to address that tip before the next meeting of the board. (This version allows trustees to practice setting short- range goals and develop an action plan with a colleague as both a support and a witness.)