

Figure 8.2: Success Tool—Trust Meter Chart

Instructions: Follow these steps to understand whom the group considers trustworthy.

1. Plan.
 - + Decide what you want to learn. For example, do you want to identify potential leaders and experts or understand how group members relate to each other?
 - + Develop two or three questions asking group members whom they can depend on—for example, “Who do you go to when you feel you are out of your depth?” and “Who can you count on to know what is really going on?”
2. Ask each group member the questions. Let people know that their responses will be confidential.
3. Compile the responses on a chart. For each question, place the names of the group members you questioned in column 1 and the names of the people they chose in column 2.
4. Tally the number of times each person's name appears in column 2, and put the total in column 3.
5. Review the chart and note the following.
 - + Those who were chosen most often
 - + Those who were never chosen
 - + Pairs who chose each other
 - + Those in pairs or small groups who were not chosen by anyone outside their pair or small group (they appear separate from the larger group)
6. Note the number of individuals who exchange information (they chose each other) and the number of individuals who just give or receive information (the choosing was not reciprocal).
7. Formulate hypotheses as to why the pattern is as it seems.
8. Consider other data or pursue other data-collection methods to confirm or disprove your hypotheses.

Question 1:

Group Members	Who They Chose	Times Chosen	Comments

Question 2:			
Group Members	Who They Chose	Times Chosen	Comments