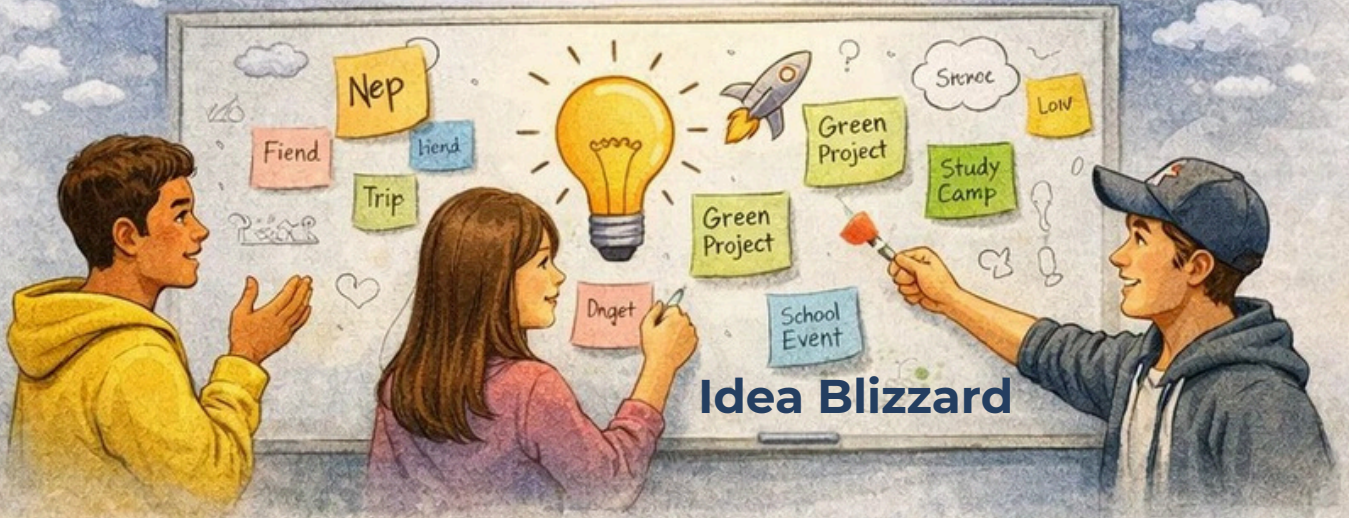
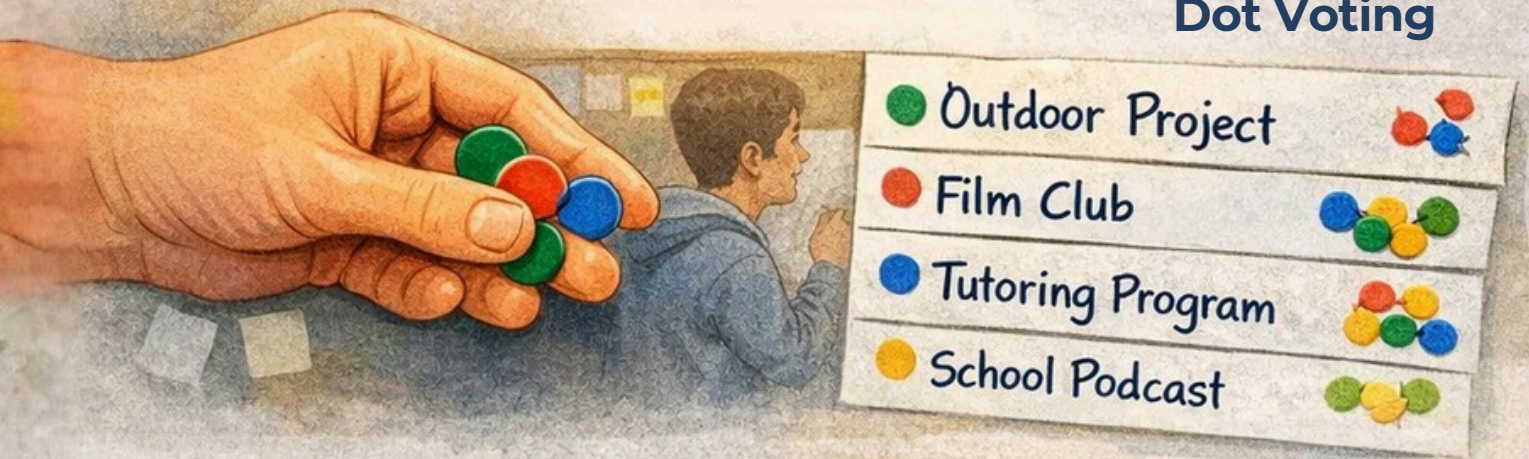


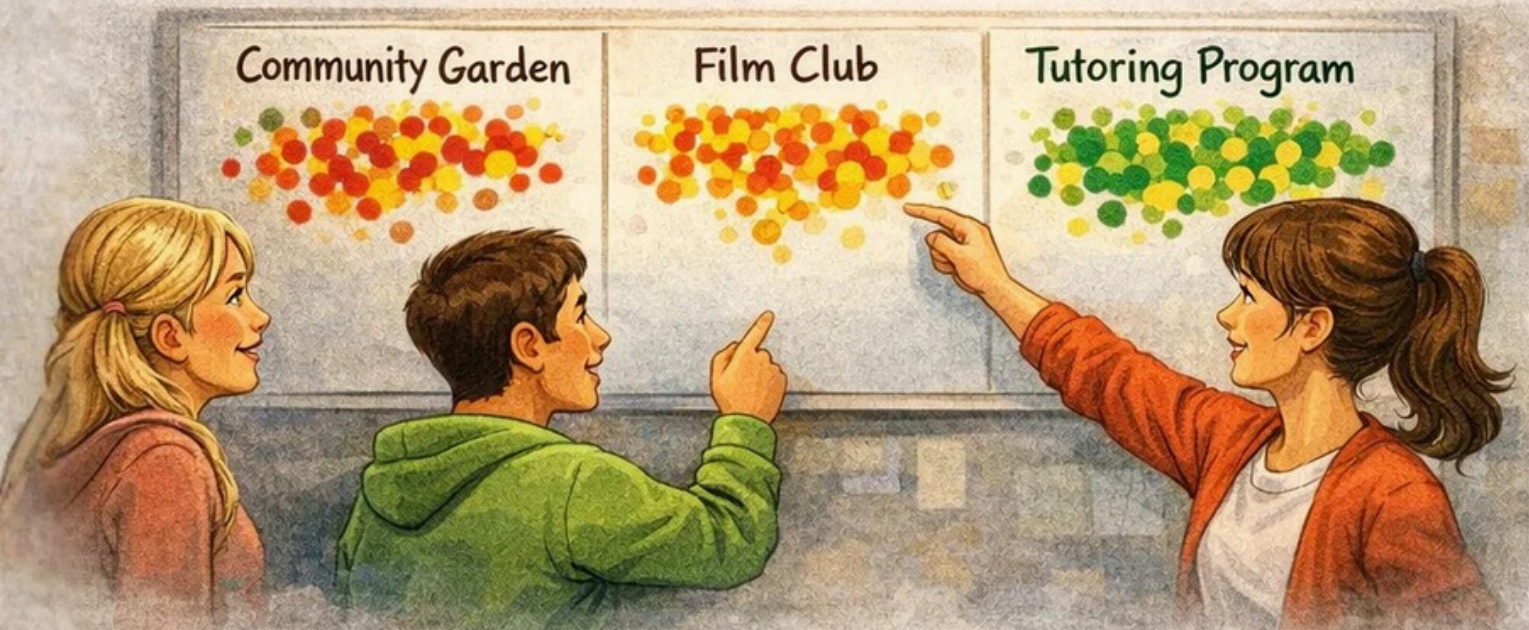
The Power of Multi-voting



Dot Voting



Heat Map Results



Have you ever asked a classroom of thirty students, "What should we do for our next science project?" and been met with thirty different, passionate answers? Or worse, has a single "loud" voice decided the fate of the whole group while everyone else sat in silence?

In the world of professional innovation at places like Google, SpaceX, or even local startup teams, don't just "pick an idea." They use a secret weapon called **Multi-voting**.

Multi-voting (sometimes called **Dotmocracy**) is a brilliant way to take a giant mountain of brainstormed ideas and narrow them down to the very best ones. It's fair, it's fast, and it's a total game-changer for classroom harmony.

Let's walk through the three stages of this decision-making "Power-Up."

Stage 1: The "Idea Blizzard" (Brainstorming)

Before you can vote, you need choices! Start by letting your students go wild with ideas. Use sticky notes or a big whiteboard.

The Rule: There are no "bad" ideas in Stage 1. If a student suggests "Building a Rocket to Mars out of Cardboard," put it on the board!



Once the board is full, the teacher helps the class **Group & Clean**. If five students suggested "Solar Power," group them into one category. This ensures the vote isn't split between similar topics.

Why this helps the student: It teaches Categorization. Students learn to see patterns in data and organise messy information into neat, logical groups.

Stage 2: The "Dot" Currency (The N/3 Rule)

Here is where the magic happens. Instead of giving every student just one vote, you give them a "budget" of votes.

The Math: A good rule of thumb is the **N/3 Rule**. If you have 15 ideas on the board, give every student 5 votes (15 divided by 3). These votes can be represented by sticky dots, checkmarks with a marker, or even digital "likes."

The Action: Students walk up to the board and place their "currency" next to the ideas they think are the strongest.

- They can put all 5 dots on one "super-idea."
- Or, they can spread them out across 5 different ideas.

How it grooms an Innovation Mindset:

- **Prioritisation:** Students learn that resources (like votes) are limited. They have to think: "Is this idea worth two of my dots, or just one?"
- **Democratic Fairness:** The "loudest" student only has 5 dots, just like the quietest student. Everyone has an equal impact on the final result.

Stage 3: The "Heat Map" (The Final Reveal)

Once the voting is done, step back and look at the board. You will see a "Heat Map" of the class's brain. Some ideas will be covered in dots, while others will have none.

The Result: You don't just have a "winner"; you have a **Consensus**. Even if a student's favourite idea didn't win, they can usually see that their second favourite choice is moving forward. This creates "buy - in" and reduces grumbling.

The Innovation Outcome: This stage teaches **Analytical Thinking**. Instead of an emotional argument about which idea is "coolest," the class makes a data - driven decision based on what the group actually values.

Why Modern Classrooms Need Multi-voting

Multi-voting turns a potentially messy argument into a structured, fun exercise in leadership.

1. **Eliminates Groupthink:** Students aren't just following the leader; they are spending their own "dots" on what they truly believe in.
2. **Visual Impact:** It's hard to argue with a board full of dots. It provides instant, visual proof of what the team wants.
3. **Speed:** You can narrow down 50 ideas to 3 in less than ten minutes.

Teacher's Pro-Tip:

To make it even more "scientific," give the students **the criteria** before they vote. Tell them: "*Use your dots for the ideas that are the most FEASIBLE to finish by Friday.*" This forces them to think like project managers!

Conclusion: Deciding Together, Moving Faster

The **Multi-voting** technique proves that the best way to move forward is to listen to every voice in the room. By giving your students the power of "the dot," you are teaching them the most important skill of all: how to reach a fair agreement and get to work.

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