

WORKSHEET · PUBLIC · 10 MIN

Deciding in context

One sitting with one decision you are living with. It brings the context into view. The decision stays yours.

For one decision you are living with. Which school, whether to take the role, when to stop, whether to say something. One sitting. The worksheet does not make the decision. It brings what belongs to the decision into view so that the decision is yours to make.

Before you begin

- ☐ Write the decision as a question.
- ☐ Note when it needs to be made, if it does.
- ☐ Note who else it touches.

What is this decision really about?

The articulation pass. The question as first asked is rarely the workable one. "Which school should the children attend?" may be "We are trying to protect stability while finding out whether the current school can keep meeting their needs." Neither is final. The second is easier to work with.

The question as first asked	The question restated	What it is trying to protect, resolve, or make possible

What belongs to this decision?

Money, time, people, history, a promise made, a fear. Write each part down and why it belongs. Then notice what you left out on purpose.

Part	Why it belongs	What happens if it is left out

What do you know, and what are you assuming?

Insight stays attributable: what is known, what is inferred, what remains uncertain. Most stuck decisions are stuck in the middle column.

Known	Assumed	Cannot know yet

Who does this touch?

Tribe: relationship within the context. Some people decide with you. Some live with the result. Some only need to hear about it.

Person or group	Decides with me · Lives with it · Needs to know	What changes for them

What are the options, including waiting?

Waiting is an option with its own cost and its own return. So is asking one more question first.

Option	What it moves	What it costs	What comes back if it goes badly

What moves next?

- ☐ The decision, or the next step toward it:
- ☐ What I will watch for after:
- ☐ When I will revisit this:

A decision made in context can still be wrong. What comes back updates the context.

In the PLAIT Context System the decision lives as a note inside the PLAIT it belongs to, with the options and the follow-up task beside it. The download carries this worksheet as app-aligned entries.