

PAIRWISE RANKING

What it is:

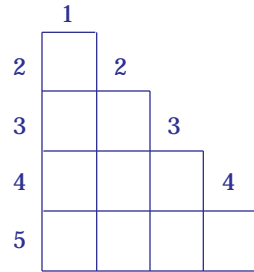
Pairwise ranking is a structured method for ranking a small list of items in priority order. It can help you:

- Prioritize a small list.
- Make decisions in a consensus-oriented manner.

How to do it:

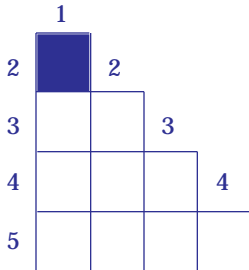
Construct a pairwise matrix.

Each box in the matrix represents the intersection (or pairing) of two items. If your list has five items, the pairwise matrix would look like this, with the top box representing idea 1 paired with idea 2:

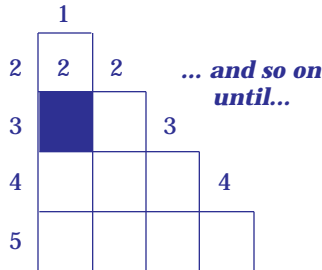


Rank each pair. For each pair, have the group (using a consensus-oriented discussion) determine which of the two ideas is preferred. Then, for each pair, write the number of the preferable idea in the appropriate box. Repeat this process until the matrix is filled.

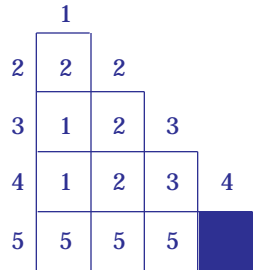
1 and 2 compared:
2 is better.



1 and 3 compared:
1 is better.



4 and 5 compared:
5 is better.



Count the number of times each alternative appears in the matrix.

Alternative 5 appears 4 times in the matrix.

Alternative	1	2	3	4	
Count	2	3	1	0	
Rank					

Rank all items. Rank the alternatives by the total number of times they appear in the matrix. To break a tie (where two ideas appear the same number of times), look at the box in which those two ideas are compared. The idea appearing in *that* box receives the higher ranking.

Alternative 5 ranks 1st overall.

Alternative	1	2	3	4	
Count	2	3	1	0	
Rank	3rd	2nd	4th	5th	

Pairwise Ranking Example

A QAT was asked to recommend sites for testing a pilot program of their recommendations. A feasibility study produced a list of six possible locations. The team then used pairwise ranking to determine that ATTC Elizabeth City, NC was best suited for this particular test.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. TRACEN Petaluma | 4. ATTC E-City |
| 2. RTC Yorktown | 5. ATC Mobile |
| 3. TRACEN Cape May | 6. Academy |

