Graphing Survey Consensus

1. Record Data
Use a data table to record each person's response rating to each item in the survey.

2. Calculate Means and SD
For each item in the survey, calculate the average rating and the standard deviation (SD).
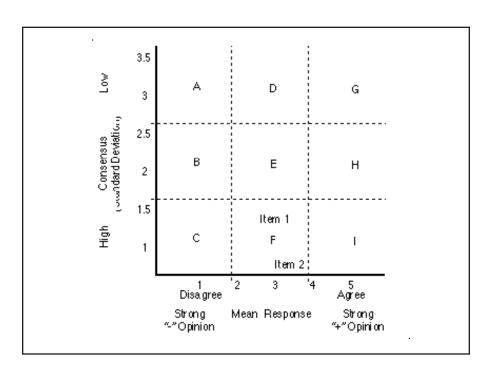
3. Rank Order Means, SDs
Rearrange the item means into a list from lowest to highest. Do the same for the standard deviations.

4. Divide Means, SD Into Thirds

	Person 1	Person 2	Mean	SD
Item 1	5*	1	3	1.4
Item 2	4	3	3.5	.4

A data table. *The 5 represents person 1's rating of the first survey item. The last two columns are the average rating and standard deviation for each item.

Divide the number of persons responding to the survey by 3. Starting from the top of the ordered list, count down this number of means. Mark this place. Again, count down the same number of means and mark this place. The means will be separated into thirds: Bottom, middle and top. Do the same for the SDs.

5. Construct Graph
Label the vertical axis as "Consensus" and the horizontal axis as "Mean Response". Mark off the vertical axis in equal increments from the lowest to the highest SD. Mark off the horizontal axis in equal increments using the values of the point scale. Plot each item: Find the mean rating along the horizontal axis. From this point, draw an imaginary vertical line. Find the SD along the vertical axis for the same item. From this point, draw an imaginary horizontal line. Put the item number where these two lines cross. Draw dotted lines where the means and SDs are divided into thirds.

6. Interpret Graph
Box A or G: Strong "-" or "+" opinion. Expect disagreement. Check further.

Box B or H: Strong "-" or "+" opinion with moderate consensus. Proceed with caution.

Box C or I: High consensus of strong "-" or "+" opinion. Act confidently.

Box D, E: Neutral and mixed opinion. Expect conflict. Caution.

Box F: High consensus of moderate opinion.