The Game of Politics

Set Up:

Ask for 9 volunteers each willing to risk $1
Establish three groups of three each from among the 9
Each group should be located slightly apart from the others
Place the $9 in a pot at the center of the table

Facilitator explains that the participants now have 20 minutes in which to allocate the $9 to not more than two of the groups.

The allocation decision must be unanimous.

If, at the end of the 20 minutes, the money has not been allocated, the facilitator gets the money!

Decisions must be based on a rational decision-making process----no games of chance, drawing of lots, rolling of dice, etc. And, no conditional decisions----no deals or agreements to redistribute after the 20 minutes.

Groups may (and should) actively bargain with one another.

Debrief by asking participants to discuss feelings, strategies, and the characteristics of the political process they saw at work in the game.