

## “Factions Within the Crew”

Within six months after [entering Biosphere 2] the Biospherians divided into two factions, management and science. [The management faction wanted to follow the original objectives, but the science faction felt that changing the objectives would result in greater scientific learning. This division...] negatively affected every aspect of the crew and was certainly the most significant problem faced by the crew. Infighting and the absence of a cohesive team reduced morale and stifled communication, thereby diminishing productivity and dangerously reducing safety.

**faction:** a group of people acting together within a larger group

**objective:** something that one hopes or intends to accomplish

**cohesive:** closely united

**morale:** the feelings of enthusiasm and loyalty that a person or group has about a task or job

**stifle:** to stop (someone) from doing or expressing something

**diminish:** to become or to cause (something) to become less in size, importance, etc.