

Thinking Hats

The SIX THINKING HATS are a technique by Edward de Bono. This technique focuses on improving the structure of thinking so that group decisions and idea evaluation can be significantly improved.

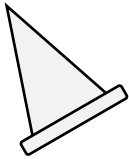
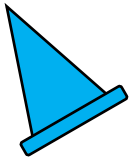

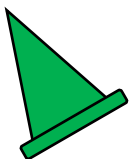

There are six different colored hats that can be put on or taken off to indicate a mode or direction of thinking. Only one hat is worn at a time by the individual or group (parallel), allowing for more thorough, expanded thinking, increased creativity and decision making.

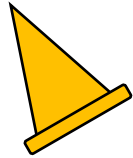
The THINKING HATS are a proven and practical thinking tool. Each hat has a different colour which indicates the way of thinking. In a group setting, each member thinks that they are using the same approach to the same thinking task - it is called focused parallel thinking.

If we think about a problem, if we want to improve something, if we are looking for a solution, it is better that our thinking is separated, guided and finally balanced in the end. To make it easier to remember the whole concept, De Bono symbolically called "hats" as something that we turn upside down, in which we think, and then take it off again. He named the hats after the colors that remind us of the direction.

TO DO:

- Please count to six. All 1's are a team, all 2's are a team, etc. Give each number a colour (after the hats).
- The topic of the discussion is how to integrate more creativity into the daily work.
- The groups have 15 minutes to discuss the topic before the plenary session. Each group is allowed to give information exclusively from their hat.
- You act as moderator during the discussion.

<p>WHITE HAT</p> 	<p>Calls for information and facts. It's all about facts.</p>	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What information do we have here? - What information is missing? - What information would we like to have? - How will we get the information?
<p>BLUE HAT</p> 	<p>Is used to manage the thinking process.</p>	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "I suggest we try to think something green to get new ideas" - Can we have a summary of your views
<p>RED HAT</p> 	<p>Signifies feelings, hunches and intuition- the place where emotions are placed.</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My gut feeling is that this isn't gonna work. - I don't like the way this is being done. - This proposal is horrible. - My intuition tells me that prices will fall soon.
<p>GREEN HAT</p> 	<p>Focus on creativity, possibilities, alternatives and new ideas! It is an opportunity to share new concepts and new perceptions.</p>	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there any other ideas here? - Are there additional alternatives? - Can we do it differently? Could there be another explanation?
<p>BLACK HAT</p> 	<p>Signifies caution and critical thinking – do not overuse! Why something may not work</p>	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costs. (This proposal would be too expensive.) - Rules. I don't think the rules would allow us to make a proposal... - Design. This design looks good, but it's not practical. - Materials. (This material would require a lot of maintenance.) - Safety issues. (What about handrails?)

<p>YELLOW HAT</p> 	<p>Symbolizes brightness and optimism. You can explore the positives and probe for value and benefit.</p>	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the advantages of this option? - Why is this proposal preferable? - What are the positive features of this design? - How can we achieve this?
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