

➤ 6 Thinking Hats

➤ *From Edward DeBono*

➤ Perspectives

➤ Have you ever wondered where someone was coming from?

➤ The 6 Thinking Hats support us to explore different perspectives towards a complex challenge or situation.

➤ We can shift from judgment to curiosity!

➤ Here are the Hats!

➤ Red Hat

➤ Wearing the red hat, you look at problems using intuition, gut reaction, and emotion.

➤ Also try to think how other people will react emotionally.

➤ Try to understand the responses of people who do not fully know your reasoning.

➤ Red Hat

➤ When you think of red, think of fire and passion.

➤ The red hat allows people to show their emotions on a subject, their gut feelings.

➤ People don't need to justify their statements. It is often important to get feelings out in the open, rather than have people at a meeting have hidden agendas, feelings, or misgivings.

➤ The red hat allows these feelings to be expressed, to come out in the open.

➤ Red Hat

➤ This is what I feel about the project...

➤ My instincts tell me this won't work.

➤ I like this, I don't like that. The idea is that these statements are known to be "feelings" and nothing more. Once they are stated, the meeting can move on to a more constructive approach

➤ White Hat

➤ With this thinking hat you focus on the data available.

➤ Look at the information you have, and see what you can learn from it.

- ➔ Look for gaps in your knowledge, and either try to fill them or take account of them.
- ➔ This is where you analyze past trends, and try to extrapolate from historical data.
- ➔ White Hat
- ➔ When you think of white, think of neutral. de Bono has categorized information as a neutral subject.
- ➔ The white hat has to do with data and information.
- ➔ What information do we have here?
- ➔ What information is missing?
- ➔ What information would we like to have?
- ➔ How are we going to get the information?
- ➔ Let's try it!
- ➔ Let's experience white and red hat conversation in action, talking about the weather.

Volunteers????

- ➔ Yellow Hat
- ➔ The yellow hat helps you to think positively.
- ➔ It is the optimistic viewpoint that helps you to see all the benefits of the decision and the value in it.
- ➔ Yellow Hat thinking helps you to keep going when everything looks gloomy and difficult.
- ➔ Yellow Hat
- ➔ When you think of yellow, think of the sun and sunny, positive thoughts.
- ➔ The yellow hat role is for discussing ONLY the positive view of problems and solution possibilities.
- ➔ We are often better with the black hat. We are good at seeing what won't work, as opposed to what will. Forcing ourselves to look only at the positive aspects can be very valuable, since otherwise we don't always move forward.
- ➔ Black Hat

- ➔ Using black hat thinking, look at all the bad points of the decision.
- ➔ Look at it cautiously and defensively.
- ➔ Try to see why it might not work.
- ➔ This is important because it highlights the weak points in a plan.
- ➔ It allows you to eliminate them, alter them, or prepare contingency plans to counter them.
- ➔ Black Hat
- ➔ When you think of black, think of negative, or caution.
- ➔ The black hat is for critical judgment.
- ➔ It points out what cannot be done.
- ➔ The hope is that the black hat role will prevent us from making mistakes.
- ➔ Black Hat continued...
- ➔ Black Hat thinking helps to make your plans 'tougher' and more resilient.
- ➔ It can also help you to spot fatal flaws and risks before you embark on a course of action.
- ➔ Black Hat thinking is one of the real benefits of this technique, as many successful people get so used to thinking positively that often they cannot see problems in advance. This leaves them under-prepared for difficulties.
- ➔ Let's try it!
- ➔ Let's experience yellow and black hat conversation in action, talking about the weather.

Volunteers????

- ➔ Green Hat
- ➔ The Green Hat stands for creativity.
- ➔ This is where you can develop creative solutions to a problem.
- ➔ It is a freewheeling way of thinking, in which there is little criticism of ideas.
- ➔ A whole range of creativity tools can help you here.
- ➔ Green Hat
- ➔ When you think of green, think of plants and growth.

- The green hat is for new ideas, for creativity, for new alternative solutions.
- Could this be done in another way?
- Might there be another explanation?
- Does anyone have another idea?
- Blue Hat
- The Blue Hat stands for process control.
- This is the hat worn by people chairing meetings.
- When running into difficulties because ideas are running dry, they may direct activity into Green Hat thinking.
- When contingency plans are needed, they will ask for Black Hat thinking, etc
- Blue Hat
- When you think of blue, think of the sky and an overview.
- The blue hat is often "given" to one person, who controls what hat will be "worn", hence controlling the type of thinking being used.
- Let's try it!
- Let's experience green and blue hat conversation in action, talking about the weather.

Volunteers????

- Using the Hats
- The main idea is to have the group only "wear one hat at a time" when considering a problem.
- The wearing of the hat can be metaphorical. At any one time, everyone will wear the same colour, in other words, look at the problem at hand from only one perspective, the perspective indicated by the hat colour.
- Using the Hats
- Understanding the 6 Thinking Hats also helps us to understand the perspectives of others on the team.