

Planning to use The Six Hats?

(A Summary from Edward de Bono's *Teach Your Child How to Think*, Viking, 1992)

Hat	Explanation	Think of...	Key Questions
White Hat	White hat thinking focuses directly on the available information. The white hat means neutral information. It is NOT a matter of argument or making suggestions.	Blank paper Computer printout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What information do we have? 2. What information is missing? 3. How do we get the information we need?
Red hat	The red hat is for emotions, feeling, hunches and intuition. The red hat is not interested in facts but only in people's feelings.	Fire and warmth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you like about the idea? 2. How do you feel about this? 3. What don't you like about this?
Black Hat	The most used of all the hats. The black hat is concerned with truth and reality. The black hat is the hat of critical thinking. It prevents us from making mistakes.	Stern judge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it true? 2. Does it fit? 3. Will it work? 4. What are the dangers and the problems?
Yellow Hat	The yellow hat is full of hope- but as it is a logical hat the reason behind the hope must be given. The yellow hat seeks to find and show the benefits.	Sunshine and optimism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the benefits? 2. Why should it work?
Green Hat	The green hat is the 'active' hat. It is used for creative thinking. The green hat is concerned with proposals, suggestions, new ideas, new alternatives, new solutions and inventions. Emphasis is on 'newness'.	Grass, trees, vegetation and growth	<p>Key questions should focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploration of the ideas 2. Proposals and suggestions 3. Alternatives 4. New ideas 5. Provocations
Blue Hat	The blue hat is the overview. It is the process control. With blue hat thinking you are above the thinking' looking down on the thinking. With the blue hat you are thinking about thinking! Used to guide an activity.	Blue Sky (above everything) Conductor of an orchestra	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where are we now? 2. What is the next step? 3. Where have we been? 4. What sort of thinking is needed?