



The Thinking Hats

Learning objective: to use thinking skills to consider an issue from different perspectives

Open minds – Open verdict

'A great many people think they
are thinking when they are
merely rearranging their
prejudices'

William James

Edward de Bono and his Thinking Hats

- ▶ Regarded by many as the leading authority in the teaching of thinking as a skill.
- ▶ His instruction in thinking has been sought by leading business such as IBM, Ford and Ericsson.

Why use the thinking hats?

- ▶ It is a way of giving structure to thinking
- ▶ It provides a chance for people to think of all parts of a problem.
- ▶ It takes out emotion from a problem.
- ▶ A move away from biased, subjective, discussion and thinking.

White Hat

- ▶ Can be the first hat in sequence use.
- ▶ Indicates neutral thinking.
- ▶ The facts and figures.
- ▶ Neutral thinking, objectivity.



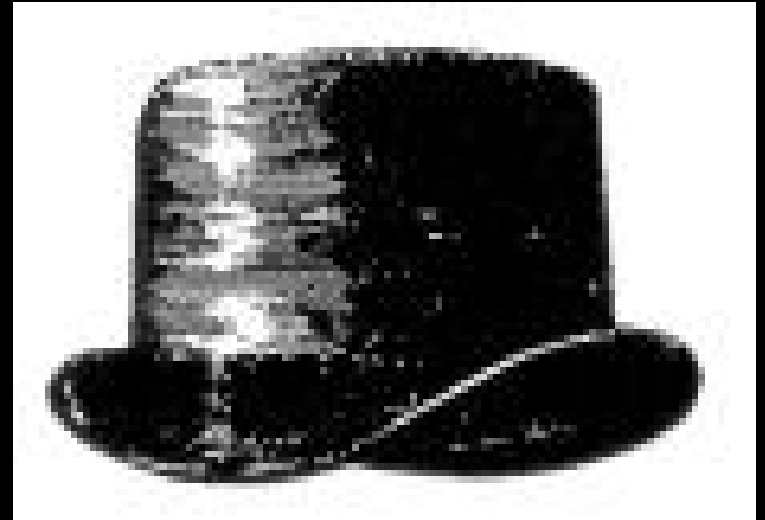
Red Hat

- Opportunity to express how you feel about the idea.
- Allows emotions to become part of the thinking map.
- Often used to give an instant reaction about a problem or issue.



Black Hat

- Hat of caution and care.
- Points out difficulties or problems - critical.
- Keeping to values and ethics.
- Logical reasoning.
- Do not overuse, over critical, less is more with the black hat!



Yellow Hat

- Opportunity to point out the positive, optimistic, beneficial ideas.
- Being logical.
- Making things happen
- constructive



Green Hat

- Creative thinking.
- Energetic.
- New ideas.
- Alternatives and change.
- New approaches.



Blue Hat

- Opportunity to control all the thinking/hats.
- Conclusions, overviews, decisions.
- Defining the problems and finalising the solution



How to use Thinking Hats



Singular Use

'we need some green hat thinking'

Facilitates cohesive group thinking

Sequential use

Form a thinking map suggested blue hat at the beginning and end.

Hats used in any order

Don't have to use all hats.

Repeated use is fine

Summary



Helps develop thinking skills.

Helps to organise thoughts and discussions.

Removes emotions from a discussion – collective thinking tool.

Fresh approach to problem solving and discussion.