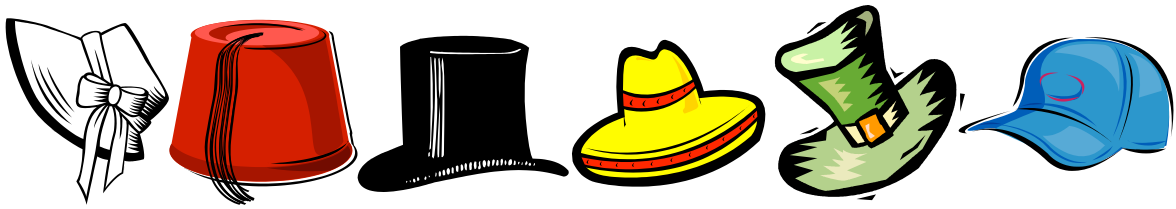


Six Thinking Hats:

Parent Information



Early in the 1980s Dr. Edward de Bono invented the **Six Thinking Hats** method. The method is a framework for thinking. It requires students (and teachers), to extend their way of thinking about a topic by using a range of different 'thinking' hats

Organizations such as Prudential Insurance, IBM, Federal Express, British Airways, Polaroid, Pepsico, DuPont, and Nippon Telephone and Telegraph, possibly the world's largest company, use Six Thinking Hats.

The six hats represent six modes of thinking and are directions to think rather than labels for thinking. That is, the hats are used proactively rather than reactively.

Your students will use the Six Thinking Hats to:

- Discuss topics
- Solve problems
- Explore alternatives
- Reach decisions
- Research, organise and write reports
- Brainstorming

The Six Thinking Hats at a glance:

- **White** hat thinking identifies the facts and details of a topic
- **Black** hat thinking examines the problems associated with a topic
- **Yellow** hat thinking focuses on the positive aspects of a topic
- **Red** hat thinking looks at a topic from the point of view of emotions and feelings
- **Green** hat thinking requires creativeness, imagination and lateral thinking about a topic
- **Blue** hat thinking focuses on reflection, metacognition (thinking about the thinking that is required), and the need to understand the big picture

What is its purpose?

Students learn to reflect on their thinking and to recognise that different thinking is required in different learning situations.

Hat	Explanation	De Bono says to think of...	Key Questions
White Hat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focuses directly on the available information • facts • neutral information • NOT 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotions • feeling • hunches • intuition • likes and dislikes 	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? 4.
Black Hat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most used of all the hats • concerned with truth and reality • hat of critical thinking • prevents us from making mistakes • 	Stern judge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it work? 2. Does it fit? 3. What are the dangers and the problems?
Yellow Hat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits of an idea • yellow hat is full of hope- logical hat so the reason behind the hope must be given • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • used for creative thinking • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview • the process control • above the thinking' looking down on the thinking • thinking about thinking! 	Blue Sky (above everything) Conductor of an orchestra	<p>What sort of thinking is needed?</p> <p>Where are we now?</p> <p>What is the next step?</p> <p>Where have we been?</p>

Reference: de Bono, Edward. (1992). *Teach Your Child How to Think*. London : Viking.