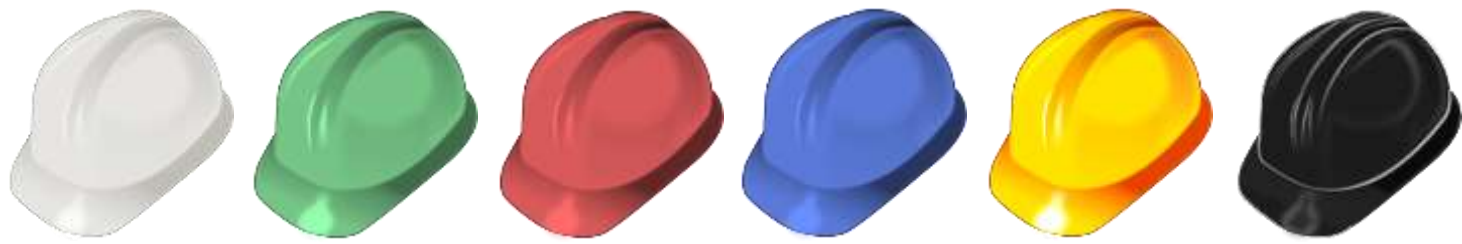




Edward de Bono's
6 Thinking Hats ®

Presented by Marina Sattler



What is the purpose of the Thinking Hats?

- △ There are six metaphorical hats and each defines a certain type of thinking.
- △ Hold critical meetings without emotions or egos making bad decisions.
- △ Avoid the easy but mediocre decisions by knowing how to dig deeper.
- △ Increase productivity and even more important -- be more effective.
- △ Make creative solutions the norm.
- △ Maximize and organize each person's thoughts and ideas.
- △ Get to the right solution quickly and with a shared vision.

White Hat

- Calls for **information** known or needed – **gathering just the facts**
- The white hat covers facts, figures, data and information.
- Wearing your white hat allows you to present information in a **neutral** and **objective** way.
- Questions you might ask while wearing your white hat include:
 - 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?

When you put on your white hat, you focus directly on the information – what is available, what is needed, and how it might be obtained. Proposals, opinions, beliefs and arguments should be put aside.

Red Hat

- The red hat covers **intuition, feelings, hunches and emotions.**
- Wearing the red hat allows you to put forward your feelings and intuitions without the need for justification, explanation or apology.
- Putting on the red hat, you express what you feel about the project.

Examples:

- My gut-feeling is that this will not work.
- I don't like the way this is being done.
- This proposal is terrible.
- My intuition tells me that prices will fall soon.

The red hat allows feelings to come into the discussion without pretending to be anything else. It is always valuable to get feelings out into the open.

Limit Red Hat to 30 seconds.

Black Hat

- **Judgment, caution and evaluation**
- Wearing the black hat allows you to consider your proposals critically and logically.
- May be used as part of assessment
- Seeks to lay out the risks and potential problems in the future
- Wearing your black hat, you might consider the following:
 - What could be the possible problems?
 - What could some of the difficulties be?
 - What are the points for caution?
 - What are the weaknesses?
 - What are the risks?
 - Remember, no solutions required.

Mistakes can be disastrous. So the black hat is very valuable. It is the most used hat and possibly the most useful hat. However, it is very easy to overuse the black hat. Caution: Used too early in the problem solving process, it can easily kill creative ideas with early negativity.

Yellow Hat

- The yellow hat is for **optimism** and the logical **positive view of things**. Wearing the yellow hat allows you to look for **benefits, achievability** and **how something can be done**.
- Questions you might ask while wearing the yellow hat include:
 - What are the benefits? Give reasons why.
 - What are the good things about this?
 - What are the values?
 - How will this help us?
 - Why can it be done?

Yellow hat thinking is a deliberate search for the positive. Benefits are not always immediately obvious and you might have to search for them. Every creative idea deserves some yellow hat attention.

Green Hat

- **The green hat is specifically concerned with creating new ideas and new ways of looking at things:**
 - creative thinking
 - additional alternatives
 - putting forward possibilities and hypotheses
 - interesting proposals
 - new approaches
 - provocations and changes
- Typical questions include:
 - Are there any other ideas here?
 - Are there any additional alternatives?
 - Could we do this in a different way?
 - Could there be another explanation?

The green hat makes time and space available to focus on creative thinking. Even if no creative ideas are forthcoming, the green hat asks for the creative effort. Often green hat thinking is difficult because it goes against our habits of recognition, judgment and criticism.

Blue Hat

- The blue hat is the overview or process control. It is for organizing and controlling the thinking process so that it becomes more productive. **The blue hat is for thinking about thinking (metacognition).**
- Wearing your blue hat, you might:
 - Look not at the subject itself- but at the 'thinking' about the subject.
 - Set the agenda for thinking.
 - Suggest the next step in the thinking; "I suggest we try some green hat thinking to get some new ideas."
 - Ask for a summary, conclusion, or decision; "Could we have a summary of your views?"

6 Thinking Hats

Make your own booklet.

- Materials:
 - One square of each color
 - One English and/or Spanish description handout
 - One brad
 - Scissors
 - Glue
- Read each description and color the hat the appropriate color.
- Make the black and white hat the front and back cover of your book.

Teacher Section Only

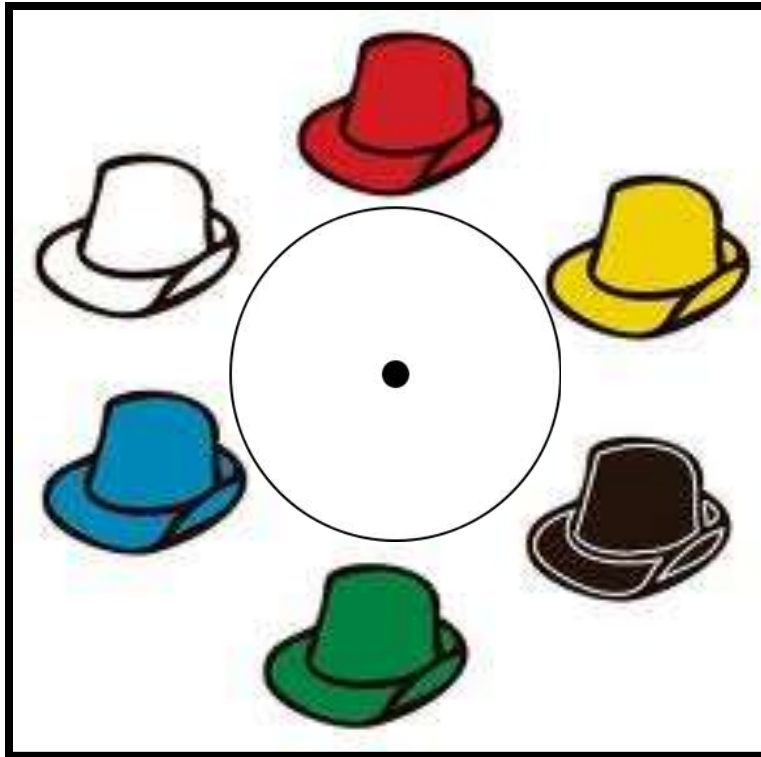




- Single use...to request a particular type of thinking
- In sequence to explore a subject or to solve a problem
 - Any hat can be used as often as you like (although you may want to start and end with the blue hat)
 - There is no need to use every hat
 - Two types of sequence
 - Evolving and preset
- Discipline is very important!
 - Only the facilitator or group leader can indicate a change of hat.
- Hats indicate the direction in which to think, not to describe. (“I want you to look east” is different from “You have been looking east.”)
- Timing is short in order to force people to concentrate on what they are trying to do.
 - Adults- one minute per person present
 - Children- may require a little more time especially in the beginning.
(Remember, you may revisit hats or not use all.)

Using the Hats

Six Thinking Hats Spinner



- Each table will have a group leader
- Time constraint: 2 minutes (extend if good responses/ideas are still flowing)
- Spin twice to discuss picture
(This is a fun way to practice using the hats.) We are not using the evolving or preset method at this time.)
- Pass spinner to the right and choose a new picture



The Six Hats:



The White Hat:
calls for information known or needed. "The facts, just the facts."



The Yellow Hat:
symbolizes brightness and optimism. You can explore the positives and probe for value and benefit



The Black Hat:
signifies caution and critical thinking - do not overuse! Why something may not work



The Green Hat:
focuses on creativity, possibilities, alternatives and new ideas. It is an opportunity to express new concepts and new perceptions - lateral thinking could be used here



The Blue Hat:
is used to manage the thinking process. It ensures that the 'Six Thinking Hats' guidelines are observed.

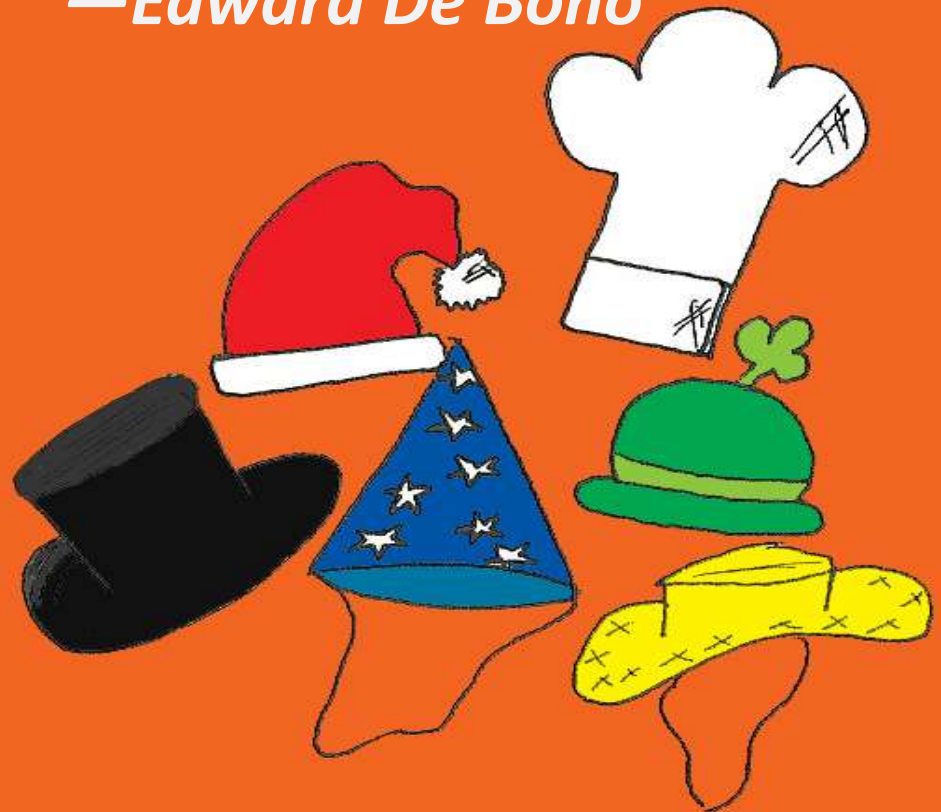
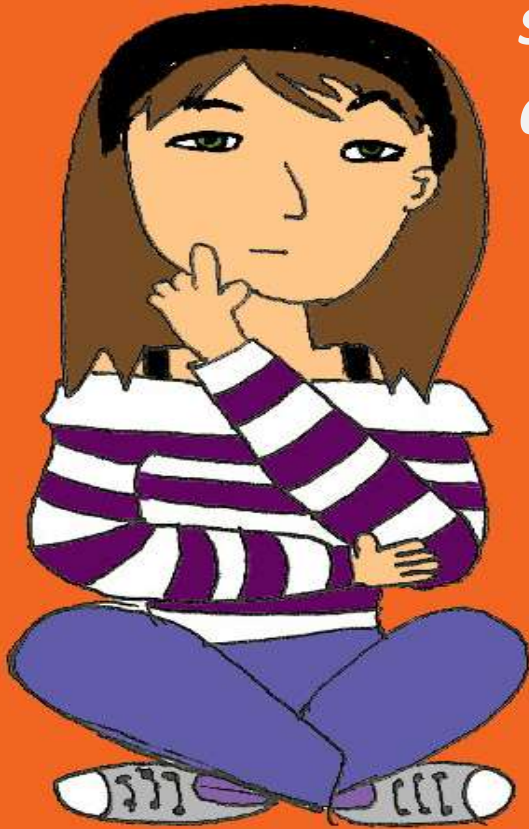


The Red Hat:
signifies feelings, hunches and intuition - the place where emotions are placed without explanation



“Many highly intelligent people are poor thinkers. Many people of average intelligence are skilled thinkers. The power of the car is separate from the way the car is driven.”

—Edward De Bono



Free Resources

- Teacher Created
<http://fourthgradeadventures.wikispaces.com/Six+Hats>
- De Bono's Free Resources for Teachers and Parents
http://www.debonoforschools.com/asp/fr_free_resources_intro.asp
- Free Posters
<http://www.bannersandawards.com/posters/posters2.html>
- Visuals
http://www.in2edu.com/learning/thinking/thinking/debono_hats.html