

Six Thinking Hats

The '**six thinking hats**' is a powerful technique that helps us look at important decisions from a number of different perspectives. It encourages us to move outside our usual way of thinking. As a result, we are able to understand the complexity of the decision and spot issues and opportunities we may not have otherwise thought of.



White Hat (*information available and needed*)

White is often seen as a neutral colour. The white hat has to do with data, facts and information. Wearing this hat, you look at the information you have and see what you can learn from it. You also look for gaps in your knowledge.



Red Hat (*feelings and hunches*)

When you think of red, think of fire and passion. The red hat allows you to show your emotions on a subject, your gut feelings. It is often important to get feelings out in the open, rather than have hidden feelings or misgivings within the team.



Black Hat (*caution, difficulties and problems*)

When you think of black, think of drawbacks, problems and caution. The black hat is for critical judgment. Wearing this hat we try to prevent mistakes being made. The weak points of a plan are highlighted and contingency plans are made. It helps to make plans more resilient.



Yellow Hat (*benefits and values*)

When you think of yellow, think of the sun and sunny, positive thoughts. Wearing this hat we are optimistic. The yellow hat wearer looks for benefits, but must think logically, not intuitively like the red hat wearer. Looking at the positive aspect of a situation can be very valuable, it helps to keep us going when the going gets tough.



Green Hat (*alternatives and creative ideas*)

When you think of green, think of plants and growth. The green hat is for new ideas, for creativity, for new solutions. When you wear the green hat, you need to generate many ideas and think of 'answers' to the black hat problems if possible.



Blue Hat (*managing the thinking process*)

When you think of blue, think of the sky and an overview. This is worn by people leading meetings. The blue hat wearer asks for support from other hat wearers depending upon the problems faced.