



DeBono's 6 Hats Thinking

Green 

Possibilities and alternatives
Creativity
New alternative solutions
Other ways of solving the problem
Focus on

Could this be done in another way?
Might there be another explanation?
Does anyone have another idea?
Green for new ideas
Think of plants and growth


Develop creative solutions to problem

Blue 

Summary and conclusion
Process
Control
Orchestration
Management
Focus on

Think Blue Sky and Overview
Framing
Set focus
Define 'problem'


Worn by meeting facilitator
Controls the thinking process
Controls what hat will be worn
Comments on the thinking being used
Asks for conclusions and decisions

Yellow 

Benefits and positives
Optimistic Viewpoint
What could work
Opportunities and Vision
Focus on

Think of sun and sunny positive thoughts
Benefits of decision
Value in decision
Must be logically based - not intuitive (red hat)
Think positively

Helps you keep going when everything looks gloomy and difficult


Red 

Fire and Passion
Emotion
Intuition
Gut Reaction
Focus on

No judgement
Think how others may react emotionally

Show emotions and gut feelings on a subject without justification

This is what I feel about the project
My instincts tell me this won't work
I like this
I don't like that


Black 

Negative and caution
Pessimistic Viewpoint
What might not work
Devil's advocate, risk, danger, fault
Focus on

Bad points of the decision
Critical Judgement

Allows you to eliminate or alter weaknesses in the plan
Prepare contingency plans to mitigate weaknesses
Look at plan defensively and highlight weak points

Spot fatal flaws and risks before you embark on course of action
Prevents us from making mistakes
Makes plan tougher and more resilient

White 

Neutral and Objective
Available Data
Facts
Past Trends
Focus on

Analyze past trends and extrapolate from historical data

Look at the information you have, and see what you can learn from it.
Look for gaps in your knowledge, and either try to fill them or take account of them.

Concentrate on the information.
What info do we have?
What info is missing?
What info would we like to have?
How are we going to get the info?

- **review** problems, decisions, options and opportunities systematically
- **generate** more, better ideas and solutions
 - **run** meetings more productively and efficiently
- **manage** conflict between team members or meeting participants
- **stimulate** innovation by generating more and better ideas quickly
- **create** dynamic, results oriented meetings that make people want to participate
 - **go** beyond the obvious to discover effective alternate solutions
 - **encourage** colleagues to use unfamiliar thinking styles
 - **think** clearly and objectively
 - **view** problems from new and unusual angles
- **make** comprehensive assessments and evaluations
- **view** situations from different, valuable perspectives
 - **manage** egos and hidden agendas
 - **achieve** significant and meaningful results

Using the 6 Hats Thinking, you can: