

SIX THINKING HATS

What are the Six Thinking Hats?

Six Thinking Hats or Edward de Bono's Six Hats is a good decision making technique and method for group discussions and individual thinking. Combined with the parallel thinking process, this technique helps groups think more effectively. It is a means to organize thinking processes in a detailed and cohesive manner. A thinking hat is a metaphor for a certain way of thinking. By mentally wearing different thinking hats people are forced to look at a problem from different perspectives. Thus a one-sided way of thinking is excluded and new insights are created.

Strategies and Programmes

After the six types of thinking have been identified, different programmes can be created. These are sequences of hats that structure the thinking process towards a clear goal. A number of these goals have been included in the materials that support the franchise training of the six thinking hats method, however, it is often necessary to adapt these for individual purposes. Sequences always begin and end with a blue hat, the group agrees on how they will think together, then they do the thinking and finally they evaluate the outcomes of the thinking process and what to do next. Sequences (and indeed hats) may also be used

Initial Ideas -   

Strategic planning -    

Choosing between alternatives -      

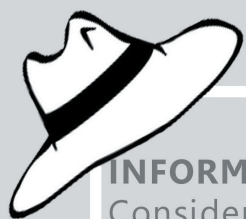
Process improvement -      

Identification of solutions -    

Problem-solving -      

Fast Feedback -    

Performance assessment -      



INFORMATION

Consider only information that is available, what are the facts?



EMOTIONS

Intuitive reactions or expressions of feelings (but no justification required).



JUDGEMENT

Logic applied to identification of mistakes or barriers, looking for a mismatch.



CREATIVITY

Statements of provocation and investigation, hearing what an idea is about.



POSITIVE VIEW

Logic applied to the identification of opportunities, looking for harmony.



THINKING

Thinking about thinking.