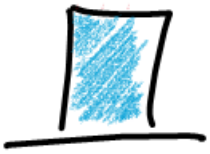
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The Six Thinking Hats



Blue Hat: The Conductor's Hat. Thinking about and managing the thinking process

The blue hat is the control hat. It is used for thinking about thinking. The blue hat sets the agenda, focus and sequence, ensures the guidelines are observed and asks for summaries, conclusions, decisions and plans action.



Green Hat: The Creative Hat. Generating ideas

The green hat is for creative thinking and generating new ideas, alternatives, possibilities and new concepts.



Red Hat: The Hat for the Heart. Intuition and Feelings

The red hat is about feelings, intuitions and instincts. The red hat invites feelings without justification.



Yellow Hat: The Optimist's Hat. Benefits and Values

The yellow hat is for a positive view of things. It looks for the benefits and values.



Black Hat: The Judge's Hat. Caution

The black hat identifies risk. It is used for critical judgment and must give the logical reasons for concerns. It is one of the most powerful hats.



White Hat: The Factual Hat. Information

The white hat is all about information. What information you have, what information you need and where to get it.

Important points to note

- The hats can be used on your own or in a group.
- In group discussions, it is essential that everyone uses the same hat (style of thinking) at the same time. This is to avoid personal preferences and conflicts between styles of thinking.
- The black hat is essential. It is a necessary part of thinking but is often overused.
- Training in the use of the hats includes how to structure the hats into sequences to address different situations.

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