
Six Hats

six thinking styles for innovation

White Hat

think of a scientist's lab coat

Think about facts, figures, and
other objective information



Information

Key Questions

What facts do we know?
What do we not know?
What trends can we observe?

Black Hat

think of a judge's robe



Caution

This is the hat of judgment and caution. Logical negative reasons something may not work, may be illegal, immoral, or unrealistic.

Key Questions

What are the downside risks?
What is the worst-case scenario?
What are the implications of getting this wrong?

Red Hat

think of a heart



Intuition

This covers intuition, feelings and emotions. The red hat allows the thinker to put forward an intuition without any need to justify it.

Key Questions

What does experience teach about this?
How do we really feel?
What is our intuition about this problem?

Yellow Hat

think of sunshine



Possibility

This is the logical positive hat. Why a new possibility could work and why it will offer new benefits.

Key Questions

What if this new possibility worked?
What are the advantages?
What would be the best possible outcome?

Green Hat

think of green grass



Creativity

The lateral thinking hat. Out of the box. This is the hat of creativity, alternatives, off-the-wall, and provocative.

Key Questions

How can we think out of the box about this?
What is completely new, fresh, and innovative?
What crazy idea have we not tried yet?

Blue Hat

think of blue sky



Management

This is the overview or process control hat. This is thinking about our thinking (Metacognition).

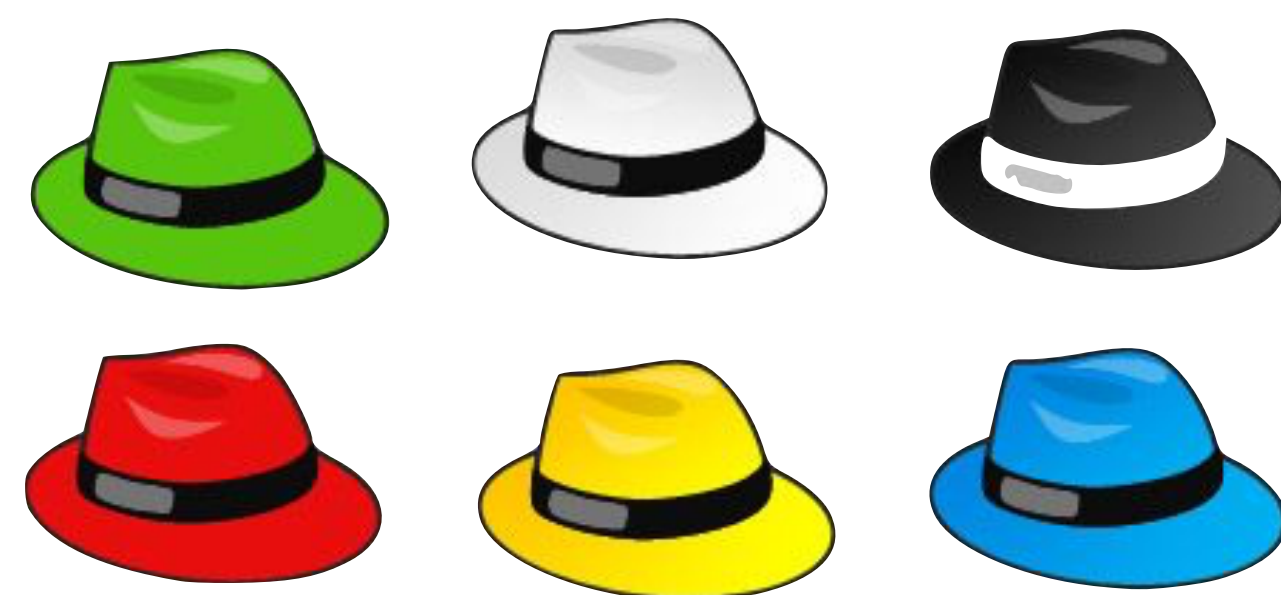
Key Questions

How can we prioritize our ideas?
What summaries and plans can we make?
Next steps or milestones can we take?

CRITICAL		White Hat – <i>think of a scientist's lab coat</i>	YES
		Used to think about facts, figures, and other objective information	
		Black Hat – <i>think of a judge's robe</i>	YES
		This is the hat of judgment and caution. Logical negative reasons something may not work, may be illegal, immoral, sin or unrealistic.	
CREATIVE		Red Hat – <i>think of a heart</i>	NO
		This covers intuition, feelings and emotions. The red hat allows the thinker to put forward an intuition without any need to justify it.	
		Yellow Hat – <i>think of sunshine</i>	YES
		This is the logical positive. Why something will work and why it will offer benefits.	
METACOGNITION		Green Hat – <i>think of green grass (growth)</i>	NO
		The lateral thinking hat. Out of the box. This is the hat of creativity, alternatives, proposals, what is interesting, provocations and changes	
		Blue Hat – <i>Sky (overview)</i>	YES
		This is the overview or process control hat. It looks not at the subject itself but at the 'thinking' about the subject or approach.	

Tips

Practical tips for a 6 hat session

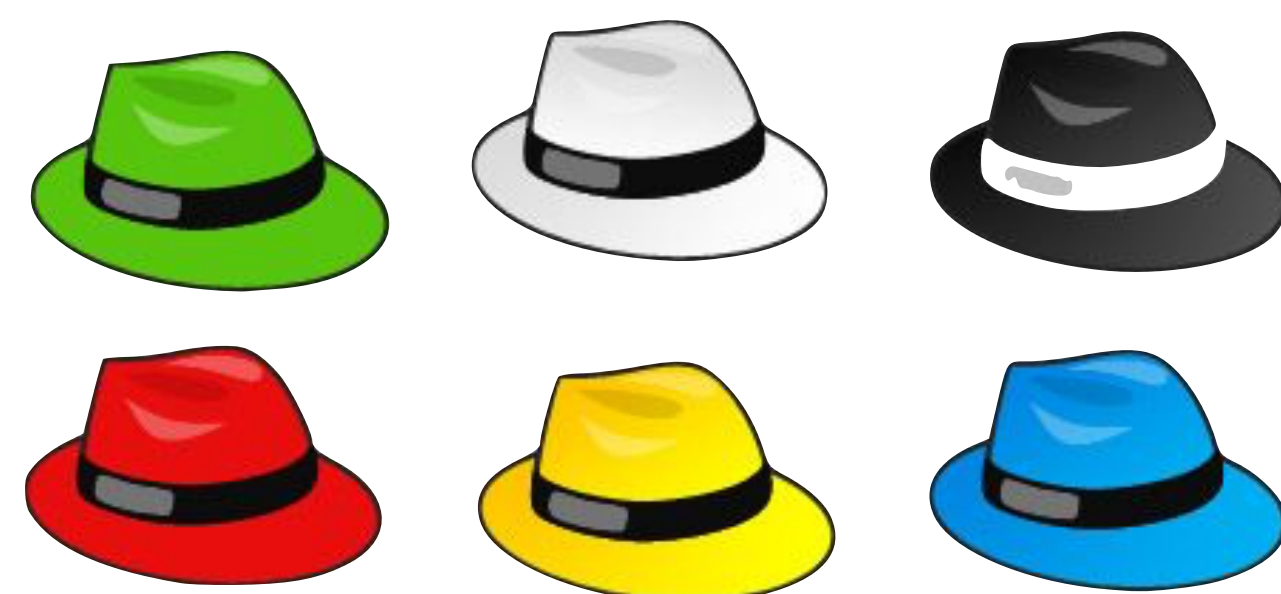


How to Lead

Works best with **Blue Hat** thinker leading
Frame your session
Capture each hat on separate page
Participation for each hat from everyone
Wait for **2nd wave** ideas for each hat
Allow **free thinking**

Test

fun feedback



Primary & Secondary Hat
Complete the sheet for yourself and then others
Have fun comparing notes

Fun Feedback

#1: Choose your own:		#2: Guess your teammates:					
SIX HATS	Name:	SIX HATS	Name:	SIX HATS	Name:	SIX HATS	Name:
	☐ Primary ☐ Secondary		☐ Primary ☐ Secondary		☐ Primary ☐ Secondary		☐ Primary ☐ Secondary
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