

# Six thinking hats



Module IV



Course 2



T1



L1

## Activity

- **Short Description:** Six hats tool helps groups to think more effectively and in a cohesive way for solving challenges. Each hat has a different way of observing the reality.
- **Methodology:** Ideation process with paper and markers or post-its
- **Duration:** 2 hours
- **Difficulty (high - medium - low):** medium low
- **Individual / Team:** Teams 5-10
- **Classroom / House:** Classroom
- **What do we need to do this activity?**
  - Big handmade poster or cutout for each color hat (blue, red, white, and green); blue, red, black (for white), and green markers.
  - Or post-its in the same colors

## Description:

Sometimes good ideas come in unusual packages. The goal of brainstorming is to let ideas flow—no idea is too crazy or far-fetched. In this activity, participants learn a creative and focused style of brainstorming called parallel thinking, by “trying on” different colored hats, which represent different ways of approaching the same problem—thus thinking in parallel ways to find the best solution.

Description for the development of this dynamic, explanation of stages, time needed for each stage, things to take into account to apply the dynamic. Each hat has a different color and represents a particular type of thought process



as explained below. Each participant will use this creative problem solving process to address an issue important to the group.

It is important to establish some ground rules, i.e. no interrupting, no criticizing ideas, and everyone gets a turn, and each participant shall stay with the hat of the moment. Write down the ideas on each poster with the appropriate color marker or have the participants act as scribes. The participants put on their blue hats. The blue hat allows them to organize their thinking and define the problem to be discussed. It sets the stage for the discussion. The participants change to the red hats. This is their chance to talk about their feelings about the problem. Do one or two rounds, or more if needed.

Now the participants to wear the white hats, which represent facts. Ask them to share any facts they know about the situation. The participants put on their green hats. This represents creative thinking. Participants can contribute any idea as a solution. They shall not worry whether or not the idea is practical or possible—anything goes during a brainstorm. Review the ideas on the posters. Finally, the students put on their blue hats again. Now all participants can try to answer the following questions: What was achieved? What possible solutions were discovered? What are the next steps? After the activity, they can all discuss what follows: Was this way of thinking a good way to come up with new ideas and solutions? Why or why not? How might you brainstorm on your own? How is it different from brainstorming with a group?

### Instructions

1. STEP 1: Presentation of the challenge and time schedule
2. STEP 2: Distribute the roles (hats) of each participant
3. STEP 2: Individual reflexion 5'
4. STEP 3: Brainstorming 30'
5. STEP 4: Classification of the ideas and voting 10'
6. STEP 5: Panel session and conclusions 45'

Take enough time to discover de more creative ideas

### Expected outcomes

- List of ideas classified by the 6 hats

### Illustration:



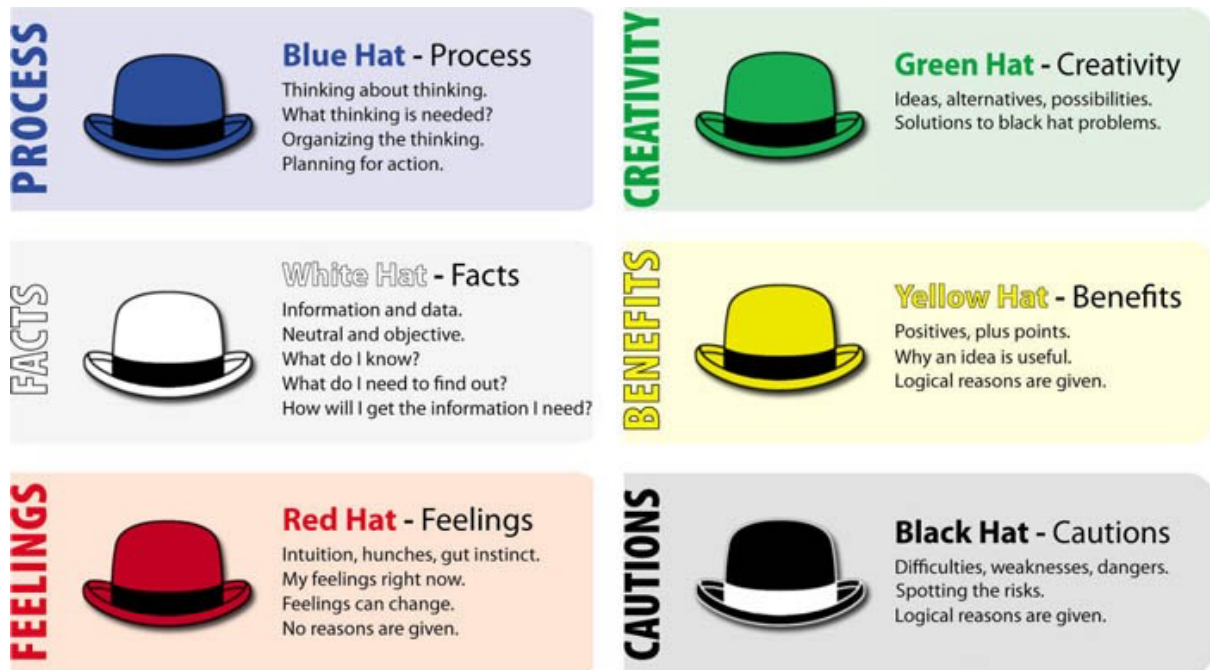


Image: <https://www.onedaydesignchallenge.net/en/journal/six-thinking-hats-technique>

This activity can be used in other (module, course, topic, lesson):

- Course IV. 2 Creativity / L1: Creativity and Problem solving

#### REFERENCES:

- 3.2.9. Thinking hats (partner MEUS) in R5.1. Creativity and Soft skills for XXI Century (Student to Practice Report)
- The Bono Group. Six thinking hats. <http://www.debonogroup.com/services/core-programs/six-thinking-hats/>

