

The Six Thinking Hats

Supplement your thinking style with five others and gain a fuller picture to make better decisions.

White Hat

This approach focuses on the available data, studying and analyzing it to identify gaps in knowledge.

- What data is available?
- What information is required?
- What information is missing?
- What questions need to be asked?



Black Hat

This style is about finding weak points in your arguments, what will go wrong. This approach makes you resilient.

- Where can we fail?
- What flaws do you see?
- What are the potential risks?
- What are the reasons why we should not proceed?



Red Hat

This style uses intuition to look at problems. It involves gut reaction and emotions. Think about how other people will react.

- How do we feel about this?
- What are our gut feelings here?
- What are our initial reactions?
- What does our intuition say about the solution?



Yellow Hat

Positive thinking is the hallmark of this approach. Discover the benefits and positive outcomes of a decision.

- How do we define success?
- How does this idea make our processes better?
- What are the potential long-term benefits?



Green Hat

Put on this hat to develop creative solutions. Stop any criticism and be free to explore any idea that comes to you.

- What thought experiments can we do?
- Is it possible to explore new ideas or opportunities?
- What are our other options?



Blue Hat

Take control while wearing this hat. This approach is about creating a structure and process to do work.

- What needs to be resolved?
- How to define the problem?
- What are our goals?
- What kind of decision shall we arrive at?



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