

Six Thinking Hats- Learning Activity

de Bono, E. (1985). *Six thinking hats*. Boston: Little, Brown.

If you are not familiar with the Six Thinking Hats method - it is just a way to “try on” different viewpoints. This can be very useful as an educational planning activity. Below is an outline that explains how to incorporate a critical thinking activity into the planning process.

Thinking Hats – How It Works

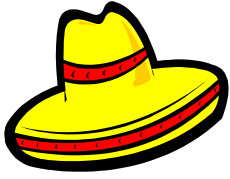
Supplies

- A variety of hats to represent the different types of thinking as outlined below and in de Bono's book. If actual hats (although it can make the activity fun) are too difficult to find you can use hats cut out of different coloured paper. Each hat is a different colour and represents a different type of thinking. The key is to have a visual that represents the different types of thinking.

Activity

1. Arrange learners into groups of six. Provide each group with six different thinking hats. (All six styles of thinking are summarized below and should be placed on each group's table as a reference. Ask each group to take a minute to familiarize themselves with each type of thinking.
2. Have each person in your group select a hat or type of thinking. Once they have their hat on (either literally or figuratively) ask them to try to discuss one the following educational problems, listed below, from the thinking viewpoint of the hat they are wearing.
3. Using the input from each of the contributing thinkers, try to develop an educational plan recommendation and/or rationale for the scenario the group selected.

Different Ways to Think !



Yellow Thinking Hat = advantages, benefits, positives, savings. (Why it can be done. Why there are benefits. Why it is a good thing to do.)



Red Thinking Hat = emotions, feelings, hunches, intuition. (How do I feel about this matter right now? How might others feel? How will I feel in a few months/years from now?)



Blue Thinking Hat = Thinking about the process of thinking. (Is it a good idea for me to be thinking about the process? How much should I think about the views of others?)



Black Thinking Hat = Caution, truth, judgment. (Does it fit the facts? Will it work? Can it be done?)



White Thinking Hat = Facts, figures, information. (What information do we have? What information do we need to get? Who has information we need?)



Green Thinking Hat = Exploration, proposals, suggestions. (What can we do? Are there some different ideas? Who is included and who is not included?)

Educational Problem:

Grade 12 Student.

You have always been an excellent student in fine art subjects but have not excelled in other academic areas. Even your hobbies involve participation in the fine arts. However, you have been doing some research into labour market information and are unsure of the realities of making a living in the fine arts. Although the thought of choosing an alternative career path does not seem authentic, you are wondering if doing so is more realistic in today's job market. What should you do?

Mature Student.

You have worked as an inside salesperson for the same company for 15 years. You still have over 20 years to work before retirement. You do not mind your job and the pay supports your family. However, there is little chance that your job will change in upcoming years or that your earning power will increase. Your family is growing up and living costs are going up. You are wondering if there is any way you can improve your situation so that you do not become bored or fall behind economically. Your educational background involves completion of grade 12 and a business diploma from BCIT. Is further education needed or realistic?