



**Green Hat:
Creativity**

Green suggests growth, energy, and life. The Green Hat is the energy hat. When “wearing” **the Green Hat**, one **offers proposals and suggestions, discusses new ideas and alternatives**. With the Green Hat one talks about modifications and variations for a suggested idea. Possibilities are brought up. When this hat is in use, everyone makes efforts to be creative.

The **Blue Hat** looks at the thinking process itself: “What should we do?”; “What have we achieved so far?”. Use the Blue Hat at the beginning of a discussion in order to **define what the group is thinking about and to decide what the group wants to achieve** at the end of their thinking. The Blue Hat may be used to order the sequence of hats that are going to be used, and to summarize what has been achieved.

**Blue Hat:
Managing The
Thinking**



**Yellow Hat:
Benefits**

Yellow suggests advantages and optimism. Under the Yellow Hat one makes a direct effort to find the value and benefits in a suggestion or action: “What is good about this?” Even if the person does not like the idea, the **Yellow Hat asks the group to seek out the good points**. “Where are the benefits?”; “Who is going to benefit?”; “How will the benefits come about?”; “What are the different values?”

The Six Hats

Of Thinking

SIX HATS OF THINKING

In cultures with a tradition of ARGUMENT, one person *takes* a position on a subject and another person *attacks that position*. This method is used in law courts, in government, in business negotiations, and in personal discussions. In cases it can be quite useful, but it is not the only way to explore a subject. Often in a business setting, this type of interaction is deemed much too aggressive, and may set each side up for “winning” rather than actually fully exploring the problem or subject at hand.

The analogy of a hat is quite beneficial to implementation and project teams. A hat is an article of clothing that one can put on and take off at will. It is associated with a role that someone is playing at a particular moment. Also, it is also associated with thinking (“Put on your thinking caps”). When we think we naturally try to do everything at once. For example we might be searching for dangers or obstacles – why something might now work. At the same time we may be trying to find new ideas or look for more information. And, then when we least expect it, our feelings and emotions come into the mix making the entire process quite complex. Can we separate out all these types of thinking?

Strong individuals and teams realize that only one setting most often will not be adequate for all our thinking. In other words, why do we try to do everything at once? Take the game of golf; a golfer has variety of clubs in his/her bag to choose from. One club is best suited for some situations, while other situations require a different club. A person can play golf with just one club, but will be beaten by a player who uses a full set.

The Six Thinking Hats is a method that is used around the world in many groups and organizations, from major businesses to schools and families. It's simple and practical. When an issue arises that needs discussion, all involved apply a particular hat to the issue and think in that same direction. The six hats are of different colors and represent the basic types of thinking. If participants accept their “role” and adhere to it, the collective sum will produce a pronounced difference in thinking and conflict resolution.

White suggests paper. The white hat concerns information. The white hat asks the following kinds of questions: “What information do we have?”; “What information do we need?”; “What information is missing?”; “How are we going to get this information?”; “What questions should we be asking?” **This hat is used to direct attention to available or missing information**



**White Hat:
Information**



**Red Hat:
Feeling**

Red suggests heat and warmth. The Red Hat has to do with feelings, intuition, and emotions. One might not know the reasons why they like something, or not. **When this hat is in use, the person has the opportunity to describe feelings and intuitions without any explanation at all.** Feelings exist and are important, the red hat give permission to vocalize them.

This can be the most used hat. **Black** reminds one of a judge's robes. The black hat is for caution. It stops us from doing things that may be harmful. **The black hat points out the risks and why something may not work; the disadvantages and potential problems.** Without this hat, we may find ourselves in trouble much of the time. Keep in mind that the Black Hat should not be overused, overuse may be quite dangerous.



**Black Hat:
Caution**