

Thinking Hats





Dr. Edward De Bono

Edward De Bono is a world-known expert in creative thinking. The 6 Thinking Hats is one such technique.

The main idea is to have the group only “wear one hat at a time” when considering a problem. The wearing of the hat is metaphorical. At any one time, everyone will wear the same colour, in other words, look at the problem at hand from only one perspective, the perspective indicated by the hat colour.



The White Hat calls for information known or needed. "The facts, just the facts."



The Yellow Hat symbolizes brightness and optimism. Under this hat you explore the positives and probe for value and benefit.



The Black Hat is judgment - the devil's advocate or why something may not work. Spot the difficulties and dangers; where things might go wrong. Probably the most powerful and useful of the Hats but a problem if overused.



The Red Hat signifies feelings, hunches and intuition. When using this hat you can express emotions and feelings and share fears, likes, dislikes, loves, and hates.



The Green Hat focuses on creativity; the possibilities, alternatives, and new ideas. It's an opportunity to express new concepts and new perceptions.



The Blue Hat is used to manage the thinking process. It's the control mechanism that ensures the Six Thinking Hats® guidelines are observed.



The White Hat

What information/facts do we know?

What information is missing?

What information/facts would we like to have? How are we going to get the information?

What is relevant? What is most important? How valid is this?

- * Examine the facts, figures and information
- * Note all information, formal and informal



The Yellow Hat

What are the good points?

What are the benefits?

Why will this idea work? Why is this worth doing?

How will it help us? Why can it be done?

- * Optimism and sunshine
- * Logical positive view of things
- * Feasibility
- * Opportunity.



The Black Hat

Is this true? Will it work?
What are the weaknesses?
What is wrong with it?

- * Caution
- * Judgement
- * Assessment.
- * Logic
- * Evidence
- * Consequences
- * Weaknesses
- * If things will work



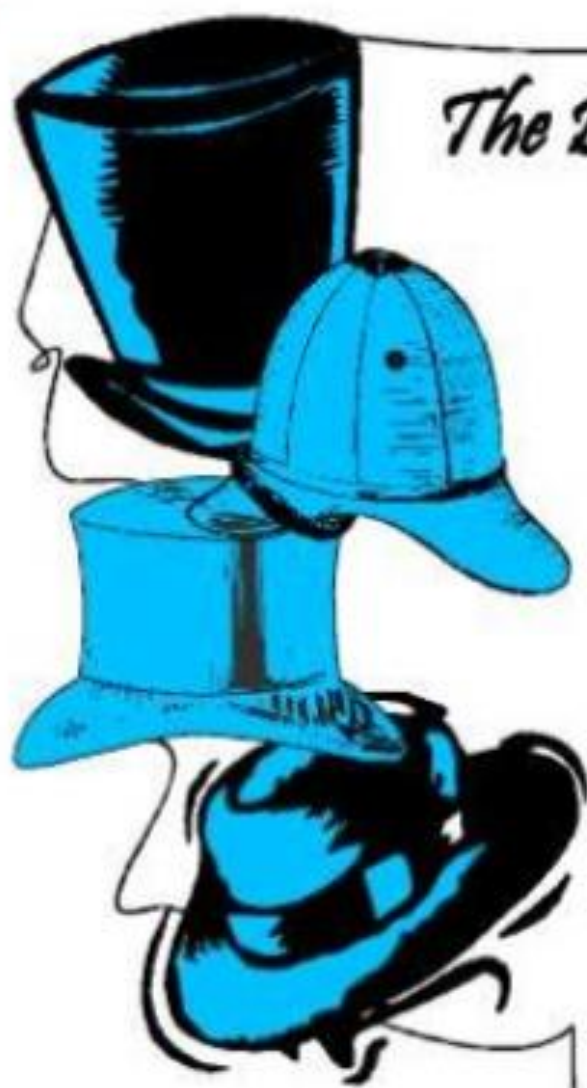
The Red Hat

How do I feel about this right now?

How cold or warm do I feel about this?

How am I reacting to this?

- * Intuition
- * Feelings
- * Hunches
- * No need to justify feelings.



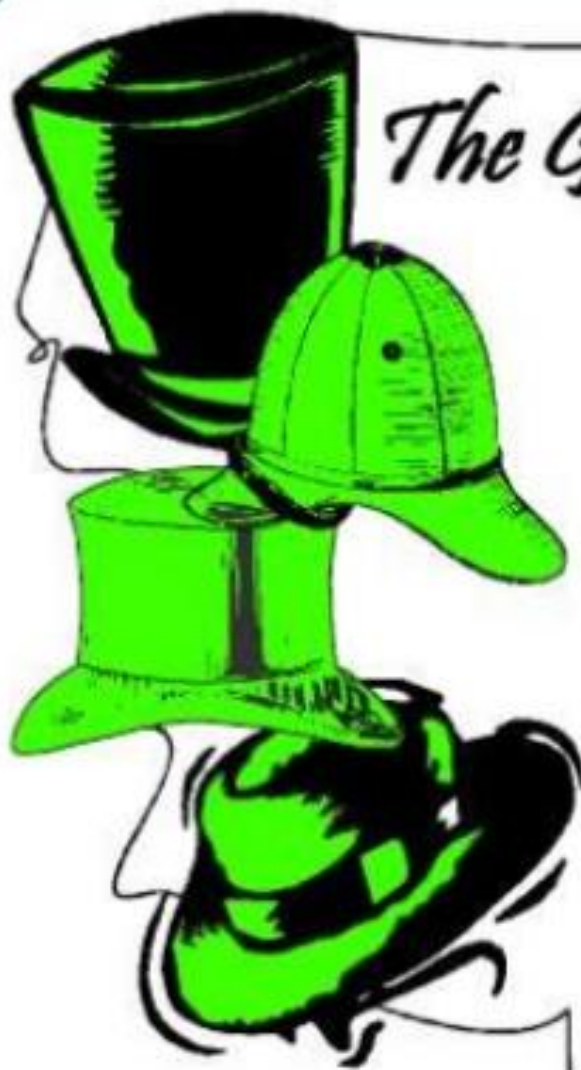
The Blue Hat

What have we done so far?

What do we do next?

What decision have we reached?

- * Controlled
- * Orchestra conductor
- * Thinking about thinking
- * Organisation
- * Getting focus & purpose
- * Making up a thinking plan
- * Making decisions & conclusions



The Green Hat

What are some possible ways to work this out? What are some other ways to solve the problem?

- * Plants springing from seeds, movement, creativity..
- * New, different ideas
- * Suggestions
- * Alternatives and enhancing
- * Ways to solve problems
- * Proposals