

Six Thinking Hats

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Each hat is a different "direction" to think, a different type of lateral thinking. Systematically encouraging these six directions when you are searching for creative solutions brings lateral thinking to the problem. When you are working on a problem, stop periodically and switch hats, come at the problem from a different direction of thinking.

White Hat Thinking covers facts, data, figures, information, and gaps.

Red Hat Thinking includes feelings, intuitions, and emotions. No "reasons" are needed to suggest a possibility.

Black Hat Thinking is the process of discernment, judgment, weighing and evaluating, must always be logical and is critical. Black Hat thinking is used to assess why a proposal won't work.

Yellow Hat Thinking is the positive side of the Black Hat. It must be logical, but looks for benefits and value.

Green Hat Thinking is the process of creativity, alternatives, possibilities, implications, the larger picture.

Blue Hat Thinking is the overview and process control aspect of problem solving, making sure the solutions fits, will work and how to make it work.

What color was Jean Genet's hat?

"The final straw came when little Jean, a ninth grader, was put in charge of the school's Christmas play. The work, loosely based on the Magi story, but now hinging on Genet's obsession with powerful thighs and buttocks of the Christ child, was filled with buggery, larceny, and prostitution of the basest kind. The audience, mostly parents, was utterly appalled, unaware that it

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was witnessing the first work of one of the 20th century's premier dramatists. The school paper was kinder: "M. Genet's *The Kings* is a challenging work that plunges the audience into a symbolic landscape of loneliness, scatology and erotic despair." The administration did not see it that way. Jean was sent to Mettray reform school less than twenty-four hours after the curtain came down." Marie Lanacaine, *Forever Genet*, Aureole and Co. Publishers, 1987, p.107

http://webits3.appstate.edu/apples/study/Creativity/new_page_10.htm 4/7/03

TASK CARD: Six Thinking Hats

Read the materials in this folder and discuss with the others in your expert group about this strategy. Use the graphic organizer to record your thoughts about the strengths of this strategy, possible applications of when it could be best used, and considerations for maximizing this strategy's use.