

Template

De Bono Six thinking hats

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Brainstorm and decide from different mindsets



INTRODUCTION SIX THINKING HATS

Edward de Bono (1933) is a British psychologist, management author and physician. De Bono invented "lateral thinking" and the concept of the "six thinking hats" in 1985. Hence the name De Bono thinking hats. This method is useful for selecting and assessing ideas and can be part of a brainstorming session. A brainstorming session is not only about generating as many ideas as possible, but also about actively selecting and assessing ideas that can be further developed. With the thinking hats from De Bono, the ideas can be viewed from different angles and the different aspects of an idea can be highlighted in a structured way. The thought process is broken down into thought roles and mindsets, through colored hats. The goal is to use the experience and intelligence of all participants in all directions. De Bono's six thinking hats are white (informative), red (emotional), black (critical), yellow (optimistic), green (creative) and blue (controlling). The thinking hats can be used in various ways when selecting ideas. You can choose to give each participant a different color thinking hat. The participants then continuously view the ideas from their own colored thinking hats (option 1). You can also choose to give each participant the same color hat when viewing the idea and to go through all colors of thinking hats per idea with the entire group (option 2). While option 2 is the original way, it is time consuming. It is wise to first make a rough selection of ideas using option 1 and then assess the rough selection of ideas using option 2.

The Bono thinking hats are mainly used in brainstorming sessions, but can also be used in meetings or as an evaluation.



Executing the Method

- Brainstorm ideas**

For this method, appoint a moderator and create a group of 3 to 6 people. Collect all ideas that are generated prior to a brainstorming session on post-its. The moderator goes through all ideas with the participants.
- The Bono options**

Before selecting ideas, determine in a group how the thinking hats will be applied in the session. Choose from option 1, option 2 or a combination thereof. Also take into account the number of people in the group and the distribution of the thinking hats. With less than 6 people, it is also possible to give a participant two or three colors of thinking hat or opting for option 2. With more than 6 people in combination with option 1, participants can share a color thinking hat with each other. Do this at your own choice and insight.
- Apply thinking hats**

The moderator keeps control of the process. The moderator also leads the discussion and determines which thinking hat / participant has the floor. Each participant responds to the idea that is currently being discussed, from the appropriate color thinking hat and the corresponding mindset.
- Select ideas**

After viewing the ideas, a selection can be made. Do this in response to the discussion of each idea and based on the outcomes from the thinking hats. After all, every idea is illuminated from various angles.
- Develop ideas**

Once the ideas have been selected and assessed, the ideas can be further elaborated.

Tick off the steps

Template

WHITE HAT | INFORMATIVE

RED HAT | EMOTIONAL

BLACK | CRITICAL

YELLOW | OPTIMISTIC

GREEN | CREATIVE

BLUE | CONTROLLING



Explanation **six thinking hats**

White | Informative

Responds from objective information, with facts and figures.

Red | Emotional

Responds from emotion, intuition and feeling judgment.

Black | Critical

Focuses on risks, vulnerabilities and dangers.

Yellow | Optimistic

Focuses on benefits and the bright side.

Green | Creative

Responds associatively, from new possibilities and lateral thinking

Blue | Controlling

Responds in a summary, analysis and filter.