

# Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats

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# What Is “Six Thinking Hats”?

**It is an approach that helps focus thinking**

- To look at a possible solution from different perspectives
- To evaluate an idea
- To increase buy-in and the quality of discussions



# Today's Session

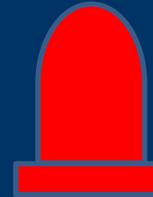
- How “Six Thinking Hats” Works
- Example
- Practice
- Benefits and Concerns
- Next Steps



# Six Thinking Hats



**Information**  
“Just the facts”



**Gut feelings**  
“I feel like . . .”  
(love, hate)



**Optimism**  
“How can we  
make this work?”



**Creativity**  
“Maybe if we . . .”



**Judgment**  
“This won’t  
work because . . .”



**Process**  
“Let’s get back  
on track”



# Now You Try It

- **Challenge:**  
Morale of staff members is low
  
- **Proposed Solution:**  
Put a single-serve coffeemaker in the break room



# In Your Group

- **Challenge:**  
Need to reach more people with our training
- **Proposed Solution:**  
Create an online training solution



# Benefits

- Consider issues systematically
- Generate more and better ideas
- Maximize collaboration
- Reduce conflict
- Keep egos and “turf protection” in check



# Concerns

- Takes time
- Might make some people uncomfortable about wearing certain hats
- Is sometimes better with a facilitator
- Includes the risk of labeling people
- Next step? (Gotta do something with it)



# Perspective

*“The question is not what you look at,  
but what you see.”*

Henry David Thoreau



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# Questions?

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