De Bono’s six thinking hats
## Workshop overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Six thinking hats technique</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>• Encourage critical thinking.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Explore project ideas from a variety of viewpoints.</td>
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<td>• Add depth to the planning process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
<td>This simple and fun method allows delegates to look at problems from non-traditional perspectives. This technique adds depth to the planning process by ensuring that all possibilities are explored and is a good critical-thinking tool for students.</td>
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<th>The Knoster model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group size</td>
<td>Ten to 20 people working in small groups</td>
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| Resources   | • PowerPoint presentation—*De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats*  
              | • Word guide  
              | • OneNote supporting document  
              | • Project ideas from previous workshops |
| Timing      | Two hours |
| Outputs     | • Project analysis from multiple perspectives  
              | • More detailed project plans |
Six thinking hats

Intuitive

Informative

Constructive

Reflective

Creative

Cautious
The red hat

- What do you feel about the suggestion?
- What are your gut reactions?
- What intuitions do you have?
- Don’t think too long or too hard.
The white hat

• The information seeking hat.
• What are the facts?
• What information is available? What is relevant?
• When wearing the white hat we are neutral in our thinking.
The green hat

- This is the creative mode of thinking.
- Green represents growth and movement.
- In the green hat we look to new ideas and solutions.
- Lateral thinking wears a green hat.
The blue hat

- The control hat, organising thinking itself.
- Sets the focus, calls for the use of other hats.
- Monitors and reflects on the thinking processes used.
- Blue is for planning.
The yellow hat

• The sunshine hat.
• It is positive and constructive.
• It is about effectiveness and getting a job done.
• What are the benefits, the advantages?
The black hat

- The caution hat.
- In the black hat a thinker points out errors or pit-falls.
- What are the risks or dangers involved?
- Identifies difficulties and problems.
Six thinking hats

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- **Red hat**—emotions and feelings; hunches and intuition.
Six thinking hats

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- **Black hat**—devil’s advocate; logical negative judgment; why it won’t work.
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- **Green hat**—fertile, creative, new ideas, movement, provocation.
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• **Blue hat**—cool and controlled; rule over other hats.
Scenario 1

• All students should be given $10 every week to attend school.
• Apply different hat thinking to this suggestion.
• Don’t worry if you agree or disagree with the statement.
Examples

• By the end the year, they will have received $300. (white hat)

• I feel that they will waste the money on things not needed. (red hat)

• Giving money to them will allow them to become better adults as they will learn about money management. (yellow and green hats)

• Schools will lose money for no reason. (black hat)

• Students could pool money and buy a new computer for their classroom. (green hat)
Scenario 2

- Cars should be banned from the city centre.
- Apply different hat thinking to this suggestion.
- Don’t worry if you agree or disagree with the statement.
Scenario 3

• Teachers using new methodologies should have a 30% pay raise.

• Apply different hat thinking to this suggestion.

• Don’t worry if you agree or disagree with the statement.
Scenario 4

- Computers are essential for good education.
- Apply different hat thinking to this suggestion.
- Don’t worry if you agree or disagree with the statement.