

Blue Hat Thinking- Process



Hat qualities?

- Thinking about thinking
- What thinking is needed?
- Organizing the thinking
- Planning for action

Indicative questions:

- What is the problem?
- Is this the real problem?
- What is the underlying problem?
- Why do we need to solve this problem?
- Where should we go first?
- Where do we start?
- What should we be thinking about?
- Are we getting anywhere?
- What factors should we consider?
- What sort of outcome would we regard as successful?
- What have we achieved so far?
- Could you put on the “X” hat?
- You’re not using the “X” hat.



White Hat Thinking- Facts



Hat qualities?

- Information and data
- Neutral and objective
- What do I know?
- What do I need to find out?
- How will I get the information I need?

Sample questions?

- What information do we have?
- What information do we need?
- What information is mission?
- What questions do we need to ask?
- How are we going to get the information we need?
- Is it fact or belief?



Green Hat Thinking – Creativity



Hat qualities?

- Ideas, alternative, possibilities
- Provocation - "PO"
- Solutions to black hat problems

Sample questions:

- Let's think "outside the box."
- What are some fresh ideas or approaches?
- This is the time for any wild or crazy or "far out" idea.
- What are all of our alternatives here?
- Aren't there some other alternatives . . . perhaps too outside the box?
- This idea won't work in its present form, but can we shape it or adapt it so that it might be usable?
- We've always done it this way; let's "green hat" it . . . does it have to be done this way?



Yellow Hat Thinking- Benefits



Hat qualities?

- Positives, plus points
- Logical reasons are given.
- Why an idea is useful

Sample questions:

- What ideas, suggestions, or proposals are there for how to approach this problem? . . .to achieve this goal?
- What is the merit of the approach?
- What positives can you see in this idea?
- What could be done to make this work better?
Faster? More economically?
- Under what conditions could this work?
- What would it take to make this proposal acceptable?
- What is your vision for how this could work?



Black Hat Thinking - Cautions



Hat qualities?

- Difficulties, weaknesses, dangers
- Logical reasons are given.
- Spotting the risks

Sample questions:

- What will happen if we take this action?
- What can go wrong if we proceed with this idea or implement this suggestion?
- What are the weaknesses that we need to overcome?
- How does this “fit” with our (or other’s) experience, policy, strategy, values, ethics, and resources?
- How will people respond?
- Will it:
 - work . .
 - be profitable . .
 - be acceptable?



Red Hat Thinking - Feelings



Hat qualities?

- Intuition, hunches, gut instinct
- My feelings right now.
- Feelings can change.
- No reasons are given.

Sample questions:

- How do you react to this?
- What is your intuition/opinion about this?
- Gut feelings . . .
- Hunches or insights . . .
- Likes/dislikes?
- What emotions [fear, anger, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, or love] are involved here?

