COLLABORATIVE CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING

INTERMEDIATE

THINKING HATS (BY DE BONO)

INTERFACE

SKILL ADDRESSED:
Collaborative Creative and Critical Thinking

LEVEL OF CHALLENGE:
Intermediate

TITLE OF ACTIVITY:
Thinking Hats (by de Bono)

INTRODUCTION TO THE SKILL

To assure that collaborative creative and critical thinking is working well in a group, there are many methods that facilitate this process. In this challenge, we are introducing the [Thinking Hats technique by Edward de Bono](#). It is designed to steer the creative process by prompting participants to view a problem or tasks from a specific point of view to assure a multi-perspective coverage of the issue at hand. By separating the thinking process into six distinct perspectives with clear roles and functions, it helps sorting the thoughts and ideas and enables us to reflect on specific facets that we might not have considered otherwise.

THE CHALLENGE

You can try this technique with a problem of your choice or use our example case, in which you are planning an open day for your school or place of work.

The main take-away for you should be to engage in collaborative thinking and self-assess your own critical and creative thinking skills in a team. By providing you with the Thinking Hats method, we hope to equip you with the necessary tool that allows you to openly engage in group activities to apply your creative thinking skills as well as foster your ability to reflect on particular thinking styles such as logical, lateral and emotional

STRUCTURE

There are six Thinking Hats, which you can distribute to persons in your group or embody yourself step-by-step, and each has a specific colour and function. Have the problem of your choice or our example case in mind, when you go through the following steps:

- First, "put on" the White Hat and look only at the available facts and collect/provide the fundamental information.
- Next, "put on" the Blue Hat, which manages the thinking process and moderates the collaborative creative process by ensuring that rules are obeyed.
- Continue with the Green Hat and provide new ideas and alternatives. This perspective stands for creativity, lateral thinking and explores possibilities.

- Then, "put on" the Yellow Hat and allow yourself to look at the bright side. The yellow hat stands for optimism and focusses on benefits and value.
- Now "put on" the Red Hat and deep-dive into expressing emotions, feelings, and intuitive thoughts. While you wear this hat, share what you love, like, dislike, hate and fear.
- Finally, "put on" the Black Hat and focus on the task of risk management. Address potential problems and express possible challenges, problems, risks and difficulties.

We recommend using real hats in these colours or any kind of alternative indicator that helps you stay within the role of the Thinking Hats and shows, which perspective you are embodying. You can always switch between the hats if new insights or information come up during the process.

You can find more detailed information and videos here: https://www.debonogroup.com/services/core-programs/six-thinking-hats/ and here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZ8vF8HRWE4

DEMONSTRATION AND EVALUATION

For this challenge, allocate the roles of the six Thinking Hats to members of your group and for 30-60 minutes, discuss either a topic of your choice or our example case: Planning an open day at your school or your workplace.

If there are less than 6 people, you can assign more than one role. If there are more than 6 people, switch roles in between so that everyone is able to participate. The Blue Hat should make sure that the rules are respected and that the thinking process is properly supported by the different hats/roles.

Discuss the topic from these six different points of view and make notes. We recommend to combine this method with a brainstorming or a mind map to transparently capture the results of the collaborative thinking process.

Afterwards, take some time with the group and reflect on how the collaboration worked using these reflection questions:
- Was everyone able to share their thoughts?
- Were the Thinking Hats helpful to ensure the multiple perspectives on the topic?
- Is there something you learned about yourself in this process or even something you would like to improve?

In any case, we hope that this method enabled you to try out new points of view during the collaborative creative process!

INTERFACE

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