



SIX THINKING HATS EDWARD DE BONO

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Six Thinking Hats Edward de Bono

Used successfully by thousands of business managers, educators, and government leaders around the world, *Six Thinking Hats* offers a practical and uniquely positive approach to making decisions and exploring new ideas.

Your success in business depends on how you think. "The main difficulty of thinking is confusion," writes Edward de Bono, long recognized as the foremost international authority on conceptual thinking and on the teaching of thinking as a skill. "We try to do too much at once. Emotions, information, logic, hope, and creativity all crowd in on us. It is like juggling with too many balls." The solution? De Bono unscrambles the thinking process with his "six thinking hats":

WHITE HAT: neutral and objective, concerned with facts and figures

RED HAT: the emotional view

BLACK HAT: careful and cautious, the "devil's advocate" hat

YELLOW HAT: sunny and positive

GREEN HAT: associated with fertile growth, creativity, and new ideas

BLUE HAT: cool, the color of the sky, above everything else-the organizing hat

Through case studies and real-life examples, Dr. de Bono reveals the often surprising ways in which deliberate role playing can make you a better thinker. He offers a powerfully simple tool that you--and your business, whether it's a start-up or a major corporation--can use to create a climate of clearer thinking, improved communication, and greater creativity. His book is an instructive and inspiring text for anyone who makes decisions, in business or in life.

Six Thinking Hats Details

Date : Published September 13th 1999 by Back Bay Books (first published 1981)

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Author : Edward de Bono

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From Reader Review Six Thinking Hats for online ebook

Karen ?✿ says

Well, de Bono does rather like himself continually reminding us of his creations including the term "lateral thinking", but don't let that stop you from reading and understanding the six thinking hats directly from him. I've seen the concept used in ways it was not designed to be (calling someone a "yellow hat thinker" for example. The idea is that we ALL use all the hats) and the concept is easy to understand although does take practice to administer.

If it has been a while since you have read this, or learnt about the method, I'd suggest having a read as you may find a really good use for six hat thinking at home, or work.

Shane says

I slogged my way through this book with much effort despite its abbreviated length. The core concept is an interesting one, and it involves a process to make meetings, brainstorming, and all sorts of collaborative efforts more organized and productive by helping the participants better organize the way they think so as not to get bogged down with unrelated minutia while trying to focus on another specific segment of the issue at hand.

Instead of anyone bringing up any sort of argument (logical, emotional, factual, cautious, etc.) at any time, the Six Hats method allows all participants the opportunity to don a metaphorical "hat" of a certain color in order to purposefully focus on a specific type of thinking while temporarily putting up a blockade to any other sort of reasoning.

White hat thinking focuses on facts and figures, red hat thinking is purely emotional with no need for justification, the black hat represents caution, the yellow hat accentuates the positive, green is the hat of creativity and moving forward, and the final hat is blue, representing organization and order.

As I said, it's not a bad idea. This book just really repeatedly clubs you over the head with it, explaining how it works so many times ("It's time we did some [pick a color] hat thinking on this problem...") as to make a dead horse whinny for mercy.

At its best, this method of thinking and collaborating can be a very effective tool for organizing options, weighing considerations, making decisions and conducting meetings with order and little conflict. At its worst it can be used just to shut someone up and confound them so that by the appropriate time for airing grievances they've completely had the wind taken out of their sails: "Gary, I appreciate what you're saying, but what we really need now are your green hat ideas. We will get to the red and black arguments at a later time (like when you're in the bathroom)."

In my opinion, despite how short the book is, it could have been much shorter. This is a handout or PowerPoint presentation's worth of material inflated with the author's ego (If I had to read about one more term he coined or is now in the dictionary...) and overly reiterated simply to fill a 173-page book and slap a \$14.99 list price on it.

Don't get me wrong—I disliked reading it but I'm glad I did. I actually came across references to white- and

black-hat thinking in a journalistic piece I read two or three days ago, and I knew what those terms meant without having to Google them. It wasn't a total waste. I'm sure there will inevitably come a day when I will be asked to don my green hat to help arrive at a solution. And now I'll know better what's expected of me in that situation.

Did I mention I'm a skeptic and a bit of a tough sell on adopting new ideas? Oh well. Maybe these hats will grow on me in time...

Nora Youseef says

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Nora Youssef_N.Y

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Suresh says

A good concept which could be captured in 4-5 pages, but converted into full blown book!!

Simon Gianoutsos says

This is a very easy read and provides a good simple approach for exploring ideas and problems through thinking from different perspectives in a structured manner. There are six hats, each of which have different characteristics:

- White Hat: facts, figures, information
- Red Hat: emotions and feelings, hunch and intuition
- Black Hat: devil's advocate, negative judgement
- Yellow Hat: optimism, positivity
- Green Hat: creativity
- Blue Hat: controlling of the hats and thinking, orchestration

The idea of the hat is that a person will put on or be asked to put on a hat and to express a view from that perspective. This gets people thinking in different ways and since it is play-acting people are more willing to express views from under the security of the hat that otherwise may be left unsaid.

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Dodoo Ahmed says

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Hatem Shawkat says

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Cassandra Kay Silva says

So annoying! If anyone in an actual business meeting told me to pause and put my green thinking hat on I would literally immediately take it off done my red hat and lash into them with a tirade of the stupidity of it all. What are we kindergarteners? Are we so bad at thinking and creative collectivity that we need to label hats to make sense of one another and listen to one another? Can't we use our own ability as coordinating social creatures to approach problems on our own from different angles and different vantage points? Do we need a book that is less than 200 pages and probably could have been written in two tell us how to do this? Really guys? What kind of business world do we live in?

Hirdesh says

Review soon.

Untouchable Soul . says

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Lukas Vermeer says

Starting off wearing my white hat, this book has only 173 pages and did not take me long to read at all.

Switching to the red hat, I can't say I'm very excited about the collaborative thinking methodology described.

If I were forced into a yellow hat, I'd say there may be some opportunity to use the hats as symbols in regular communication to indicate a certain thinking style is desired.

However, my black hat thinking immediately suggests that mentioning any colour hat to the uninitiated will only lead to endless discussions about the book and the method, and not aid the conversation in any way, thereby voiding any reasons to use the hat in the first place.

Donning my green hat, perhaps this method would be more useful if taught in a workshop setting together with peers, so that the ideas can immediately be applied to real challenges.

Hats po cheese: some people will love this book, others will say it stinks.

In closing, under the protection of the blue hat, I can conclude I think the methodology described in the book is mildly interesting, but hardly as earth shattering as it is made out to be.

Arwa Helmi says

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