



DEVELOPING CREATIVITY AND ORAL SPEECH BY SIX THINKING HATS METHOD

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<p>Received: 23th March 2021</p> <p>Accepted: 4th April 2021</p> <p>Published: 20th April 2021</p>	<p>This article aimed to assess the effectiveness of undeservingly forgotten technique "6 thinking hats". The main reason why this method is not widely used among teachers is its time and resource consuming factors. In this article, we want to prove the contrary.</p>
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Originally, Edward de Bono designed and performed this technique in 1985. Born on 19 May 1933 in Maltese, Edward Charles Francis Publius de Bono was a physician, psychologist, philosopher, author, inventor and consultant. He is the originator of the term 'lateral thinking', author of the book 'Six Thinking Hats' and is a proponent of the teaching of thinking as a subject in schools.

In 2005, the method was used in the United Kingdom innovation sector, where it was offered by some assistance organizations and had been trialed within the UK's civil service.

All in all, what is "Six Hats" all things considered? A powerful set of tools, which can help you and members of your team or class to divide thinking into six clear functions and roles. Each 'thinking hat' is a various way of thinking. By having a mental "hat", it is easier to focus or redirect ideas, the conversation, the meeting or the lesson. This is how MindTools website explains each of the hat:

White Hat: With this thinking hat, you focus on the available data. Look at the information that you have, analyze past trends, and see what you can learn from it. Look for gaps in your knowledge, and try to either fill them or take account of them.

Red Hat: "Wearing" the Red Hat, you look at problems using your intuition, gut reaction, and emotion. Also, think how others could react emotionally. Try to understand the responses of people who do not fully know your reasoning.

Black Hat: Using Black Hat thinking, look at a decision's potentially negative outcomes. Look at it cautiously and defensively. Try to see why it might not work. This is important because it highlights the weak points in a plan. It allows you to eliminate them, alter them, or prepare contingency plans to counter them. Black Hat thinking helps to make your plans "tougher" and more resilient. It can also help you to spot fatal flaws and risks before you embark on a course of action. It's one of the real benefits of this model, as many successful people get so used to thinking positively that they often cannot see problems in advance. This leaves them under-prepared for difficulties.

Yellow Hat: This hat helps you to think positively. It is the optimistic viewpoint that helps you to see all the benefits of the decision and the value in it. Yellow Hat thinking helps you to keep going when everything looks gloomy and difficult.

Green Hat: The Green Hat represents creativity. This is where you develop creative solutions to a problem. It is a freewheeling way of thinking, in which there is little criticism of ideas. (You can explore a range of creativity tools to help you.)

Blue Hat: This hat represents process control. It's the hat worn by people chairing meetings, for example. When facing difficulties because ideas are running dry, they may direct activity into Green Hat thinking. When contingency plans are needed, they will ask for Black Hat thinking.

The task of this method is to look at issues from the perspective of various experts (e.g. doctors, architects or sales directors) or distinctive clients.

Besides above mentioned fields, this technique can also be implemented in education. The productivity of the technique is immense: it triggers students' creative and critical thinking, speaking, listening and observation skills.

One more peculiarity of "6 hats", it is suitable for almost all the types of learners such as: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. As the topic chosen, students will have to think thoroughly about their tasks, it's very good when a learner can concentrate on 1 thing at a time. Later, each participant will have a chance to express themselves in a lively discussion and look at the issue from different angles.

The difference between the technique and debate is that there is no opposing, everyone strives for one common goal and all the process is controlled by one person, who is not a teacher. This in its turn leads to improvement of learner autonomy for the teacher is just an observer, not someone who is authoritarian.

How will the process take place? The teacher will have to spare one lesson on this activity. The instructor prepares hats beforehand (preferably in the form of colored crowns) and may distribute them as a coronation process, explaining the role and the significance of each hat. This is going to serve as an attention grabber, so that children will get interested in the process. Then one topic should be chosen e.g. "...". Learners take their time to think and prepare for the speech. After the given time each owner of the hat will present their ideas under the control of "Blue hat". For the blue hat you can opt for passive or naughty students to give them responsibility and sense of importance.

Other students who are not participating can be asked to be observers. In the end, they may give additional points which were not mentioned during the process or give feedbacks, opinions and their conclusions about the procedure. This way all the young learners will be involved in the activity using their knowledge, language, critical and analytical thinking as a main tool.

Concluding our article, we may say that even the "Six thinking hats" was a conservative method, which was not widely employed among teachers, due to its time and effort consuming features; nowadays it can be quite beneficial to students in small groups who are really in need of encouragement for speaking. While practicing this technique, we noticed the peaceful atmosphere that was a result of friendly discussion and collaboration between students, where strong students weren't dominating and weak students were trying to speak a lot. Also, this method may lead to the development of skills which were mentioned before. Moreover, it is obvious that this method cannot be used every lesson, you can use once in a while or when you want to bring in something new into your classroom.

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