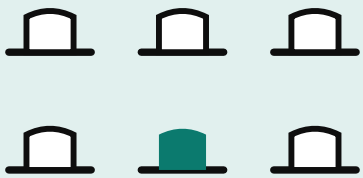
Method

Six Thinking Hats

A way of running a group discussion: everyone adopts the same mode of thinking at once, represented by a colored hat, and they switch it as they go.



In Spanish
Seis sombreros para pensar

Origin
de Bono (1985)

Output
An orderly discussion that looks at a topic through several ways of thinking

What it's for

Keeps a meeting from turning into a fight between those who defend an idea and those who attack it.

Key elements

White
Data and available information.

Red
Emotions and intuitions, without justifying them.

Black
Risks and reasons for caution.

Yellow
Benefits and reasons for optimism.

Green
New ideas and alternatives.

Blue
Organizing the discussion: what comes next and what is concluded.

How it's done

1 

Set out the topic and the order of the hats.

2 

Think together wearing the same hat, and switch when it's time.

3 

Conclude with blue: what is decided.

Applications in design

When to use it

To assess ideas or decisions with a group, after ideation.

Avoid

Using the hats to label people (“you are the black hat”).

Don’t fall for it

The black hat is useful, but it should not take up the whole session: give it its turn, like the others.

Connections

Builds on

- Desirability, feasibility, viability

Related to

- LEGO® Serious Play®
- Brainstorming
- MoSCoW method
- Premortem
- Dot voting

Authors and works

1985	**Edward de Bono**	Proposed “parallel thinking”: the group explores a topic in the same direction at the same time, instead of clashing.

Sources

Original sources

- de Bono, E. (1985). Six thinking hats. Little, Brown.

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