

UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy in the Anthropocene

Method mosaic

Title:	Six Thinking Hats
Target audience:	Secondary Level I-II
Time:	Approx. 1.5 hours
Objective:	Futures literacy (GreenComp 3.1)
Topic:	independent of the topic
Materials:	hats (white, red, black, yellow, green, blue)

Brief Description:

Edward de Bono's "Six Thinking Hats" concept uses six distinct thinking approaches (the "hats") to analyse complex problems from multiple perspectives and develop solutions. Each hat represents a specific mode of thinking and fosters a particular perspective: the white hat stands for facts and objectivity, the red hat symbolizes emotions and intuitive impressions, the black hat focuses on risks and critique, the yellow hat emphasizes optimism and opportunities, the green hat represents creativity and new ideas, and the blue hat oversees the process and directs the mode of thinking. By consciously switching between the "hats", learners can break habitual thinking patterns, enable balanced discussions, and make more comprehensive, well-considered decisions.

The Six Thinking Hats can be used to discuss questions and scenarios for the future in a creative yet structured way. With the white hat, learners gather data and facts about current trends and developments that may shape the future. The red hat encourages the expression of emotional reactions, wishes, and fears about potential futures, often revealing unspoken needs. The black hat prompts analysis of potential risks and challenges, helping to identify barriers that may hinder the desired future. The yellow hat allows for an optimistic view of opportunities and desirable future scenarios, fostering the development of visions. With the green hat, learners create alternative ideas and scenarios for innovative future planning. Finally, the blue hat structures the process, allowing the group to reflect on how to integrate the perspectives to develop a comprehensive and actionable future strategy.

Citation Suggestion:

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