Center For Neighborhoods
Neighborhood Institute

Six Thinking Hats – An Overview

How To Go Beyond Your Usual Thinking and Doing

Adapted from Six Thinking Hats by Edward de Bono

White Hat = data and information.
What do you collectively know about the topic?

Red Hat = feelings, intuition, and emotion.
How does the group feel about the topic.
What is the "group's public stance"?
How do individual members feel about the topic?

Yellow Hat = logical positive.
What are positive aspects relating to the topic?
Be sure and consider the answer from multiple people' point of view.

Black Hat = logical negative, critical judgement.
What are negative aspects of the topic?
Again, consider the answer from multiple people' point of view.

Green Hat = creative thinking and idea generation.
What are related issues and/or topics that may connect with and/or influence your decisions?

Blue Hat = process control.
Using the information gathered while wearing the other five hats what conclusions or decisions can you come up with?