Edward DeBono's Six Thinking Hats

WHITE HAT FACTS & FIGURES
- Neutral & objective
- Differentiates between fact and extrapolation or interpretation
- Data search needs focused questions
- Data spectrum (ordinal scale)
  - Always true
  - Usually true
  - Generally true
  - By & large
  - More often than not
  - About half the time
  - Often
  - Sometimes true
  - Occasionally true
  - Been known to happen
  - Cannot be true OR can be contradictory

RED HAT EMOTIONS
- Anger, rage, fear, feelings, hunches, intuition
- No need for justification or explanation
- Thinker who reacts & feels rather than proceeding from one rational step to the next
- Red Hat Thinking
  - I feel
  - I don't like
  - I sense
  - I don't think
  - That's hideous
  - My soft spot...

BLACK HAT NEGATIVE
- Gloomy, critical
- Devil's Advocate, "yes, but...
- Always logical & truthful with relevant reasons but does not have to be fair
- Black Hat Thinking
  - Why it won't work
  - Critical judgment
  - Pessimistic view
  - What are the risks?
  - Not concerned with problem solving, but does NOT have to be fair

YELLOW HAT POSITIVE
- Optimistic, hope
- Opportunity
- What could we do?
- Positive speculation, alternative ways, generates proposals
- Yellow Hat Thinking
  - Positive
  - We could...
  - What about...
  - Is it feasible?
  - Focus on benefits, what are the risks?
  - No better than possible
  - Remote or long shot

GREEN HAT CREATIVE
- New ideas, innovation
- Provocation or extraction can be stepping stones that result in forward movement
- Green Hat Thinking
  - New ideas
  - Into frequent jargon
  - Breaks problems into irregular parts for divergent pursuit
  - Cuts across systems
  - Sharpen or creates new paradigms

BLUE HAT PROCESS CONTROL
- Blue hat thinker calls for the use of the other hats
- Blue Hat Thinking
  - Defines the topic
  - Sets the focus
  - Monitors process
  - Directs the "hat" type of thinking
- Blue Hat
  - Responsible for end of conclusions during process
  - Directs process
  - Enforces the "hat" type of thinking

LATERAL THINKING
- Changes concepts for urgent problems
- Sustains or creates new paradigms

LIKELIHOOD OF IDEA
- Likelihood of idea (ordinal scale)
  - Proven
  - Very likely
  - Good chance
  - Even chance
  - No better than possible
  - Remote or long shot

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