6 Thinking Hats

Why

At some point in your ideation sessions, you'll have reached a critical mass of ideas, and it will become unproductive to attempt to keep pushing for more. This is referred to as the 'convergent stage' where ideas are evaluated, compared, ranked, clustered and even ditched in an attempt to pull together a few *great* ideas to *act on*. Right now, the aim is spotting potential winners, or combinations of winning attributes, from a number of ideas.

The Six Thinking Hats will help you apply the idea criteria which are right for your current design challenge. These methods will help you work through the pile of ideas which you've generated and select the best ones, which you can start prototyping and testing.

The Six Thinking Hats Technique provides a range of thinking styles to apply to idea selection.

Best practice: How

- The facilitator should encourage the participants to evaluate and consider all the ideas through six various mindsets and thinking styles so as to uncover the widest range of possible angles on the ideas being assessed. It helps break participants out of their set styles of thinking and forces them to look at the ideas being assessed from multiple viewpoints and assessment criteria.

[Continued on next page]

[Continued from previous page]

- **White Hat:** The White Hat calls for information which is *known* or *needed*. It's all about this: 'The facts, and nothing but the facts.'

- **Yellow Hat:** The Yellow Hat symbolizes *optimism*, *confidence*, and *brightness*. Under this hat, you explore the positives and probe for value and benefit.

- **Black Hat:** The Black Hat is all about *judgement*. When you put on this hat, you're the devil's advocate where you try to figure out what or why something may *not* work. It's now your job to spot the difficulties and dangers and ask where things might go wrong. This is probably the most powerful and useful of the hats, but it's a problem if you overuse it.

- **Red Hat:** The Red Hat calls for *feelings*, *hunches*, and *intuition*. When you use this hat, you should focus on expressing emotions and feelings and share fears, likes, dislikes, loves, and hates.

- **Green Hat:** The Green Hat focuses on *creativity*: the possibilities, alternatives, and new ideas. It's your opportunity to express new concepts and new insights.

- **Blue Hat:** The Blue Hat is used to *manage* the *thinking* process. It's your control mechanism that ensures the Six Thinking Hats guidelines are observed.

Learn more about how to use this template

Methods of using this template are taught in our online course **Design Thinking: The Beginner's Guide**. Make full use of this template and learn more about design thinking by signing up for it today.

Design Thinking: The Beginner's Guide

◼◻◻ Beginner course

The world's leading companies, such as Apple, Google and Samsung, are already using the design thinking approach—because they know it's the way forward when it comes to innovation and product success. Through **Design Thinking: The Beginner's Guide**, you will deep dive into the five phases of this paradigm-shifting approach to problem-solving—empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test. By receiving detailed guidance on problem-solving activities ranging from ideation techniques—such as brainstorming and using analogies—to ways of gathering feedback from your prototypes, you'll be able to download the other templates involved and effectively use them in your work. Get ready to unpack, explore, and master design thinking—using it to set yourself apart and unlock the next stage of your professional life.

[**Learn more about this course ›**]

About the Interaction Design Foundation

INTERACTION DESIGN
FOUNDATION

Founded in 2002, the Interaction Design Foundation (IDF) is on a mission to provide accessible and affordable design education to people across the world. We provide open-source educational materials as well as online, self-paced UX Design courses. Through taking our courses, you'll benefit from course materials developed by leading practitioners and academics from top-tier universities like Stanford University and MIT. Learn more about the IDF

How to advance your career with the IDF

Attend lessons at your own pace

Learn from UX experts and professors, from anywhere and at anytime

Network online and offline

Discuss with your peers in your courses, and meet with them in your city

Advance your UX career

Get an industry-trusted Course Certificate to add to your résumé

See all our courses ›