

The Collaborative Spirit

The Spirit of Koinonia

Ancient Greek Socrates and friends bond themselves to the principles of discussion that maintained a sense of collegiality. These principles were known as Koinonia which means “spirit of fellowship”

Establish Dialogue: dialogue means “a talking through” exchange ideas without trying to change the other person’s mind. This is not the same as discussion, which from its Latin roots means to “dash to pieces”. The basic rules of dialogue for the Greeks were

- Don’t argue
- Don’t interrupt
- Listen carefully

6- Hats DeBono:

You and your team members can learn how to separate thinking into six clear functions and roles. Each thinking role is identified with a colored symbolic "thinking hat." By mentally wearing and switching "hats," you can easily focus or redirect thoughts, the conversation, or the meeting.



The White Hat calls for information known or needed. "The facts, just the facts."



The Yellow Hat symbolizes brightness and optimism. Under this hat you explore the positives and probe for value and benefit.



The Black Hat is judgment - the devil's advocate or why something may not work. Spot the difficulties and dangers; where things might go wrong. Probably the most powerful and useful of the Hats but a problem if overused.





The Red Hat signifies feelings, hunches and intuition. When using this hat you can express emotions and feelings and share fears, likes, dislikes, loves, and hates.



The Green Hat focuses on creativity; the possibilities, alternatives, and new ideas. It's an opportunity to express new concepts and new perceptions.



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

Clarify your thinking Must suspend all untested assumptions

Be Honest: say what you think, even if your thoughts are controversial.

Participants: the group should be diverse, people from different disciplines


Collegiality: All participants must regard one another as equal colleagues, even if they have nothing in common. Most surrender that you are a senior person and get the last word or a junior person and can be quiet. We talk differently to friends and have the free play of our thoughts.

Suspending all Assumptions: In order to give fair value to ideas, the group collectively must free themselves of all preconceptions and suspend all assumptions.

Suspending Judgment: Requires everybody to suspend all criticism and judgment until after all ideas are on the stage.

Playfulness: When we play, we become childlike and begin to behave in spontaneous creative ways. Einstein has been described as the perennial child and was well aware of the parallels between creative-thinking thought patterns and those of playful children.





Elaboration: Extend the groups thinking by encouraging them to elaborate on the existing ideas in some way. Ask what can be substituted, combined, adapted, magnified, put to some other use, eliminated, rearranged, or reversed in the existing ideas?

Cracking Creativity by Michael Michalko

