



de Bono's Six Thinking Hats

Rather than simply explain the Six Thinking Hats, we will employ Hilda Taba's Inductive Thinking strategy to assist our understanding of the different dispositions we can assume when interacting with information. Below is a set of data. On your own, read each item. Then, with a partner, classify these into the nature of thinking encouraged or represented. When finished, compare your thinking with the descriptions of Thinking Hats on the following page. Note that no right or wrong number of groups exists. Be prepared to share your justification as to why you put items into a specific group and your rationale for the use of them in a democratic classroom.

1. Whenever I think of math I get anxious.
2. The title of the poem is "My Last Duchess."
3. We need to make sure that both the male and female perspective is considered.
4. Maybe we need to go to another group to get additional ideas.
5. How long did it take you to complete the question?
6. It will work because of cost and it solves the problem.
7. I don't know. I just don't like the idea—I feel jittery.
8. Let's clarify what we now understand about the problem.
9. We do not have enough evidence to make that decision.
10. What are we trying to do? Let's lay out a plan of action.
11. Perhaps we could take this one idea and see if we can break it into simpler parts.
12. How old was this person when they discovered the idea?
13. What if we connected those three ideas? Would that be a possibility?
14. I appreciate everyone's input; however, the parents' response makes me nervous.
15. My insides are telling me this is going to make people angry.
16. Our reasons for making that decision are not going to pay off in the long term.
17. I like the ideas that all of you all have shared. This shows the power of collaboration.
18. Let's identify the benefits of taking turns.
19. Have you considered whether or not the weight will reduce its stability?
20. Suppose we made a mistake at step two; would this explain why we are stuck?

Note: With Taba's strategy, the number of groups is not stated. So, in this case knowing ahead of time six groups exist is a modification and simplification of her strategy.

