WORKSHEET + WORKED EXAMPLE

Think It Through From Six Angles

Six perspectives on one question, with a next step that accounts for more of the picture.

20-30 minutes | Six Thinking Hats inspired practice

Use it in three moves

1. Choose one question. Everyone uses the same perspective at a time; do not assign permanent hats to people.

2. Move through the perspectives in an order that fits the question. Let people pass or contribute in writing.

3. Close by naming what remains unknown and one next inquiry.

Which question are we exploring?

Keep one concrete decision in view.

White · What do we know and need to find out?

Name the source. Leave missing information visible.

Red · What reactions are present?

A feeling can be heard without being treated as a fact about someone else.

Think It Through From Six Angles

YOUR WORKING NOTES / CONTINUED

Yellow · What could be worthwhile?

Name who benefits and under what conditions.

Black · What could make this difficult?

Look for conditions to address, not people to dismiss.

Green · What other possibilities can we make?

Allow an alternative that changes the original proposal.

Blue · What should happen next?

Agree who will check the open questions and when the group returns.

A question for me

Which perspective do I habitually rush past?

See one way through

FICTIONAL WORKED EXAMPLE / NOT THE ANSWER TO YOUR SITUATION

Which question are we exploring?

Should the library pilot a late opening on Thursdays?

White · What do we know and need to find out?

Thirty patrons requested later hours. We do not yet know which shifts staff would prefer.

Red · What reactions are present?

Some staff are curious; others feel that another change is being decided for them.

Yellow · What could be worthwhile?

People working daytime shifts could visit after work if transport and staffing fit.

Black · What could make this difficult?

A late close could leave one person locking up alone.

Green · What other possibilities can we make?

Trial one Thursday a month, with two staff volunteers and a later start that day.

Blue · What should happen next?

Ask affected staff and patrons about the trial, check closing arrangements, then revisit next Tuesday.

The thinking behind it

When only one kind of contribution counts as sensible, the room becomes smaller. Give people a shared way to hear the contribution before judging the person.

Edward de Bono developed Six Thinking Hats as a way to separate modes of thinking. The method asks groups to use the same hat together. This independent introductory activity uses original prompts and is not an official training product.

De Bono Group · Six Thinking Hats

Read You Have a Culture Problem by Nic Payne