## 6 THINKING HATS

## DIRECTIONS:

Have students flush out their top ideas using 6 hats. One way you could do this is to have each team member put on a different colored hat and look at the top ideas through this perspective. As a group they could share their feedback based on the hat they are wearing.

|  | 1. Blue Hat: manages the thinking process. It's the control mechanism that ensures protocols are observed. | "The Facilitator" <br> Define the Issue and Process Where should we go first? Where do we start? What should we be thinking about? Is there an underlying problem? Is this the real problem? Why do we need to solve this problem? <br> Assessment of the Process Are we getting anywhere? What factors should we consider? What sort of outcome would we regard as successful? What have we achieved so far? <br> Delegate Roles \& Responsibilities Could you put on the " X " hat? You're not using the " $X$ " hat. |
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| $\sqrt{a}$ | 2. White Hat: focuses on available data (facts and figures) while remaining neutral. | "The Researcher" <br> What information do we have? <br> What information do we need? <br> What information is missing? <br> What questions do we need to ask? <br> How are we going to get the information we need? Is it fact... or belief? |
| $\square$ | 3. Yellow Hat: symbolizes positive brightness and optimism. | "The Sunshine" What positives can you see in this idea? What could be done to make this work better? Faster? Under what conditions could this work? What is your vision for how this could work? |
| $\square$ | 4. Black Hat: provides the basis of logical, critical thinking offering careful, cautious, and defensive insights. | "The Devil's Advocate" What will happen if we take this action? What can go wrong if we proceed with this idea or implement this suggestion? What are the weaknesses that we need to overcome? How does this "fit" with our (or other's) experience, policy, strategy, values, ethics, and resources? How will people respond? |
|  | 5. Red Hat: uses intuition, gut reaction, and robust emotion (from the adult or child perspective). | "The Heart" <br> How do you react to this? <br> What is your intuition/opinion about this? <br> Gut feelings... Hunches or insights... Likes/dislikes? <br> What emotions [fear, anger, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, or love] are involved here? |
| $\square$ | 6. Green Hat: stands for new energy, possibilities, and creativity. | "The Innovator" <br> $\square$ Let's think "outside the box." <br> $\square$ What are some fresh ideas or approaches? <br> $\square$ This is the time for any wild or crazy or "far out" idea. This idea won't work in its present form, but can we shape it or adapt it so that it might be usable? |

