



## 6-Hat Thinking

There are many ways in which this structured thinking activity can be organised. However, the most simple and effective way is as follows:

(Resources: 1 sheet of A3 per group, 1 sheet of A4 per group, a black ; yellow; purple and green pen per group, enough red pens per person, news article {statistical diagrams, other resources to do with the topic etc.....}).

1. Put students into groups of 4-6 people.
2. Choose a Blue Hat for each group (or get a volunteer – usually someone who can be controlling without being bossy!) The Blue Hat will be your eyes and ears for this activity. You can't be everywhere ensuring things are how they should be therefore the Blue Hat needs to do that for you, keeping everyone on task and wearing the correct coloured hat.
3. Get all students in the group to read the given article. (Briefly – just to get an overview).
4. Get one student to write down all the black-hat information from the article, using a black pen. This information should be brainstormed onto the piece of A3 paper.
5. Get **ALL** students to brainstorm, using the red pen, all their red-hat responses. Again, this should be written randomly onto the sheet of A3 paper. This round should be done in silence as it is a 'gut reaction' round so there should be no opportunity for students to comment on what each other has written.
6. Repeat step 3 for the yellow and purple hat. Making sure only ONE student writes the responses onto the A3 paper. Reinforce to the students that all responses should be written, there should be no 'filtering'.
7. On the sheet of A4, get students to reflect on their responses and, using the green pen, get one student to record all the green-hat thinking.
8. Each 'blue hat' should now feedback their group's ideas to the whole class.

*You could use the notes taken to provide the structure for an extended piece of writing.....Black Hat = introduction, Red Hat = 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph (giving your opinion), Purple and Yellow Hat = for and against then Green Hat = conclusion (looking forward)*