

THINKING TOOL 2: SIX THINKING HATS

WHAT IS PARALLEL THINKING?

That saying two heads is better than one may ring true when you're trying to solve a problem, but imagine the problem solving power with six heads or in this case hats. Parallel thinking allows you to approach a problem with six different perspectives.

Select each of the colored hats to find out which perspective is engaged when someone is assigned the hat.



- **White Hat (The Data Analyst):** Focuses on neutral, objective facts and figures, identifying what information is known and what is missing.



See the slide notes for all hat descriptions

HOW PARALLEL THINKING WORKS

Take a quick look at an example that illustrates each of the thinking hats. Select the image to see a larger version.



About wearing these hats:
Note, although in the example shared here, individual characters are assigned these roles, in real life, anyone can and should take these perspectives at any time. For example, you can adopt each of the perspectives or hats when solving a problem on your own.



Note: The larger version is on the next slide.

6 THINKING HATS IN SUMMARY

Let's Think Happy! The 6 Magical Thinking Hats



MEET THE THINKING HATS!

The "Six Thinking Hats" is a system where people metaphorically "wear" different colored hats to represent specific modes of thought. By switching hats, individuals or groups can ensure they are exploring a problem from every possible angle—facts, feelings, risks, and creativity—leading to smarter decisions and better teamwork.



THE WHITE HAT: THE FACT-FINDER

Focuses on data, figures, and information that is known or needed.



Use it for Research: Check the grading rubric and due dates before starting a big essay.



THE RED HAT: THE HEART

Represents feelings, hunches, and intuition without needing to explain them.



Use it for Honesty: Admitting you feel "vibes" of anxiety about a group presentation.



THE BLACK HAT: THE SAFETY CHECK

Signifies caution and critical thinking to identify why something might not work.



Use it for Planning: Identifying that a club meeting time might conflict with everyone's sports practice.



MORE HATS FOR BIG IDEAS!



THE YELLOW HAT: THE SUNSHINE

Symbolizes brightness and optimism, looking for the value and benefits of an idea.



Use it for Motivation: Seeing how a difficult volunteer project will look amazing on your college application.



THE GREEN HAT: THE CREATOR

Focuses on creativity, possibilities, new ideas, and different ways of doing things.



Use it for Innovation: Brainstorming a unique viral theme for the school's winter formal dance.



THE BLUE HAT: THE LEADER

The control mechanism used to manage the thinking process and set the agenda.



Use it for Focus: Keeping your group project team on task so you finish before the bell rings.



PARALLEL THINKING AND THE 5 GENERALS IN DR. STONE

In *Dr. Stone*, the Five Wise Generals (Senku, Chrome, Ryusui, Gen, and Ukyo) form the core decision-making body of the Kingdom of Science. While they don't explicitly name Edward de Bono's 6 Thinking Hats, their collaborative dynamic is a perfect masterclass in how Parallel Thinking functions in a high-stakes environment. Rather than arguing against each other, they unconsciously rotate through the hats to solve complex problems, build timelines, and mitigate risks.

In this depiction, Kohaku (also known as the lioness) is added as the red-hat thinker who focuses on matters of the heart and emotion. Select each character to learn why they wear their hat.



What is Dr. Stone?



Note: Button opens up popup w/text in slide notes. By dividing these roles cleanly, the Kingdom of Science functions like a single, highly optimized brain trust, turning impossible tasks into manageable, structured realities. But again, in real life, anyone can take any of the roles or perspectives to have a well balanced perspective. Flow example: Objective Data (Senku)} → Lateral Ideation (Gen)} → {Value Design (Ryusui)} → {Safety Review (Ukyo)} → {Process Management (Chrome)} → {Kinetic Execution (Kohaku)}

SELECT EACH DOCTOR STONE CHARACTER TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WEAR THE HAT



Senku Ishigami - White Hat Thinker

The White Hat is entirely objective, dealing strictly with hard facts, figures, historical data, and verifiable information. It contains no room for emotional bias, speculation, or wishful thinking.

Senku is the absolute embodiment of the White Hat. Faced with a world frozen in stone for 3,700 years, he does not panic or mourn; instead, he counts the seconds (\$116,427,065,921\$ seconds, to be exact) to keep an accurate temporal baseline.

- **Empirical Thinking:** When diagnosing petrification, Senku isolates the chemical reaction of nitric acid (HNO_3) and alcohol ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$) as the solvent, approaching the problem with pure biochemical calculations.
- **Neutrality:** He views everything through a lens of natural law. Even when dealing with dangerous enemies, his assessments of their physical capabilities and tactical threats are calculated mathematically, devoid of personal resentment.



Slide notes contain each of the hat alignment.

LET'S SEE OUR GENERALS IN ACTION

Let's listen to a conversation where the generals decide how to plan to revive a workforce for building Senku's rocket to the moon..



Listen now



Go to this link for the script:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Tl7rWm0zLI60feSSIXP0tBIk0gz0xJzikIBKTFGkuMk/edit?usp=sharing>

Drag the color hat that best describes the statement of the character.

Hat Color

TEAM CHAT

Kingdom of
Science

Lunar rocket team

Rocket blueprints

Project resources



Ishigami Senku

The math is straightforward. To assemble the solid-fuel booster, we are looking at roughly \$1.5 \times 10^5\$ man-hours of high-precision labor. We must scale our workforce by at least 400% to hit our launch window.



Ryusui Nanami

Desire is noble! A classic industrial scaling problem has a simple capitalist solution: revive the old-world elites, establish our currency (Dragos), and watch the factory floors assemble themselves overnight!



Kohaku

Beyond the analytical planning, my gut tells me we are approaching this entire selection process backward. We don't need a crowd of selfish strangers right now. We need an emotional anchor. We need trusted, unyielding hearts first.



Asagiri Gen

Let's think a bit more broadly. If we revive the reporter Minami first, her data will lead us to the petrification coordinates of a legendary chef. Five-star meals trigger huge dopamine loops; they will beg to work just to stay in our village!



Ukyo Saionji Ukyo

Let's think a bit more broadly. If we revive the reporter Minami first, her data will lead us to the "If we revive fifty high-strung, greedy modern workers all at once, we face a massive security and resource risk. How do we feed them? If we bring back the wrong people first, we'll have a civil war before we ever mix the rocket fuel.



Chrome

That's brilliant! We use psychological social engineering to bypass physical constraints. The roadmap is officially: Revive Reporter → Locate Chef → Scale Labor. Let's write this sequence down!





Start the quiz

Based on what you've learned about Parallel Thinking and the 6 Thinking Hats, take a quiz that checks on the skills used by each of the Dr. Stone Generals.



Link to Quiz Question:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vx4M-900pJFUTOVgdLh_7XlWJy8cHAsNYu1tZNAAhyc/edit?usp=sharing

NOW YOU TRY IT - QUICK PROJECT



Objective: Apply the 6 Hats to a highly relatable personal decision, such as buying a new gaming console, upgrading a PC, or choosing a high school elective.

Result: A simple visual matrix (6 by 2) where you analyze your decision through all six colors:

- *White:* Cost, performance metrics, storage size.
- *Black:* What chores/saving will this force me to do? Will it cut into my sleep?
- *Yellow:* Access to exclusive games, playing with friends, career prep skills.
- *Red:* Pure gut feeling—does this console actually excite me?
- *Green:* What options do I have? Alternative choices?

See matrix example



Learner has the opportunity to apply the 6 thinking hats to their own issue, dilemma or needed decision. They can also reflect on how helpful parallel thinking is.

NOW YOU TRY IT - QUICK PROJECT

Hat	Rationale or Info
White	
Black	
Yellow	
Red	
Green	
Blue	

Objective: Apply the 6 Hats to a highly relatable personal decision, such as buying a new gaming console, upgrading a PC, or choosing a high school elective.

Result: A simple visual matrix (6 by 2) where you analyze your decision through all six colors:

- *White:* Cost, performance metrics, storage size.
- *Black:* What chores/saving will this force me to do? Will it cut into my sleep?
- *Yellow:* Access to exclusive games, playing with friends, career prep skills.
- *Red:* Pure gut feeling—does this console actually excite me?
- *Green:* What options do I have? Alternative choices?

Close matrix example



This is an example of a table that learners can build on their own. A pdf form of the table can also be shared with the learner. Though it's better that they build it themselves.