



Strategies for Making Better Decisions

What gets inspected gets improved. What's tracked becomes transformed. Assess proposals and ministries based on their intended results through the lens of a journalist. Assess new proposals using the 6 hats exercise.

ASK QUESTIONS LIKE A JOURNALIST

- **WHY** are we considering this? What is the purpose? How does it fulfill our mission?
- **WHERE** is this leading us? Is it helping us live into our vision?
- **WHOM** are we seeking to serve? What are their needs? Do we offer what they need?
- **HOW** will we launch this ministry? What is the plan and process for moving forward?
- **WHEN** might we launch this? Is this the right time? How long will it last? When will we assess results?

EDWARD DE BONO'S 6 THINKING HATS

Each hat is a different color, representing a different evaluation task. Assign leaders within your group a color, asking them raised questions about the proposal or program being discussed through the lens.

THE WHITE HAT (SYMBOLIZING AVAILABLE OR MISSING INFORMATION)

- What information do we have? What information do we need? What information is missing?
- What questions should we be asking?

THE RED HAT (SYMBOLIZING FEELINGS, INTUITION, AND EMOTIONS)

- What energizes us about this proposal?
- What's our gut instinct about the plan? What are our feelings about what we've discussed so far?
- How do we sense others would respond to this idea?

THE BLACK HAT (SYMBOLIZING CAUTION)

- What will this cost us in the way of time, money, and human resources?
- What are the possible downsides to this proposal?
- Who else has done this? How did it work for them?
- Is this the best use of our resources?

THE GREEN HAT (SYMBOLIZING GROWTH, ENERGY, AND LIFE)

- What do we like about this idea? How might we build on what's been proposed?
- What other possibilities are we overlooking?
- Who else should we talk to for more ideas?

THE BLUE HAT (SYMBOLIZING THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS)

- What are the steps for moving forward if we decide to act? Who is responsible for each step?
- Who else needs to know about the decision we're making? How will we get the word out to people?
- What criteria will be used to determine if we're successful?

THE YELLOW HAT (SYMBOLIZING OPTIMISM AND POSSIBILITIES)

- What are the good points about this proposal?
- What are the benefits for moving forward?
- Who would benefit from this program or ministry?
- How would people experience these benefits?

