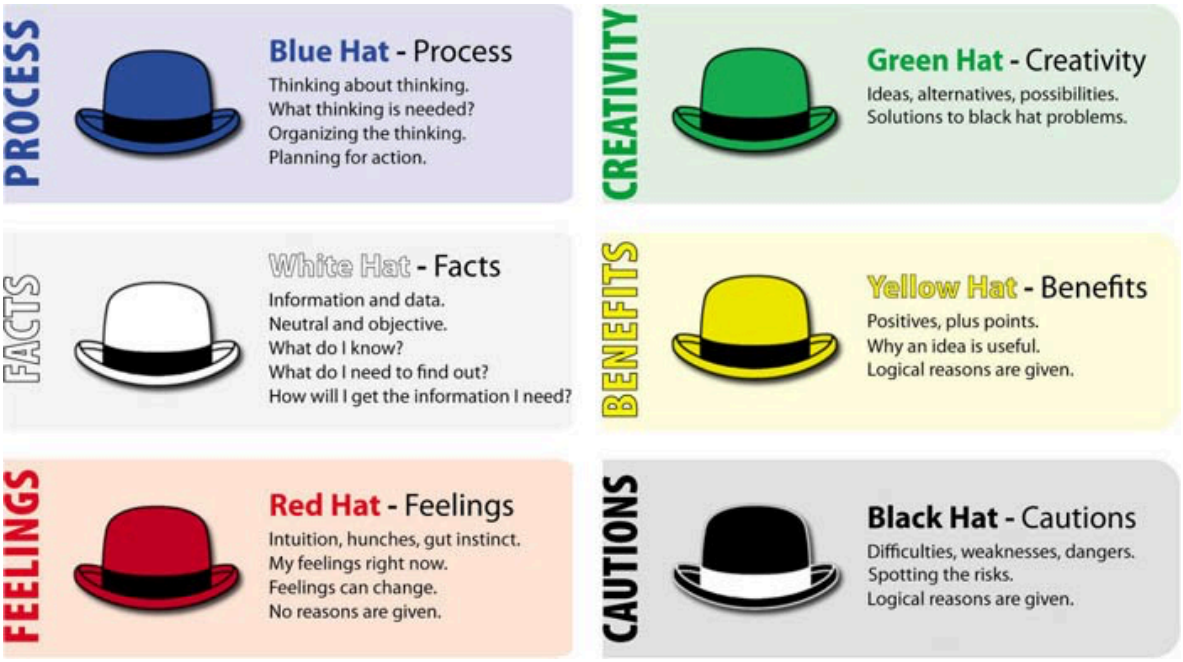
TEAM DISCUSSION

The Six Thinking Hats technique is a tool for group discussion and individual thinking. Each hat represents a different type of thinking:



Rooms are assigned below.

THE MEANING OF GRADES DILEMMA

Stephen is a professor of engineering. He recognizes the importance of teaching in his work as a professor, and he tries to use techniques that require students to take chances and try new things that will help them to grow in both intellectual and personal ways. However, Stephen faces a major dilemma in his work with respect to grading. Like other professors at his college, Stephen has a strong commitment to the meaning of grades, and he refuses to inflate them. As a result, students from his department have traditionally had difficulty gaining acceptance into their desired post-graduate engineering programs: their grade-point averages are not as high as those of competing students from colleges where grade inflation is commonplace. Though Stephen recognizes that his students are at a distinct disadvantage as a result of his school's relative lack of grade inflation, he wants to approach grading fairly.

Given the dilemma of Stephen, discuss the questions for each hat:

ROOM #1: White Hat (Facts and Information)

What are the factual differences in grading practices between Stephen's college and other institutions?

ROOM #2: Red Hat (Feelings and Emotions)

How might students feel about Stephen's grading practices, especially when they realize it might affect their post-graduate opportunities?

ROOM #3: Black Hat (Critical Judgement)

What are the potential drawbacks or challenges of Stephen's commitment to not inflating grades?

ROOM #4: Yellow Hat (Positive Judgement)

What positive outcomes or benefits might arise from Stephen's approach to grading?

ROOM #5: Green Hat (Creativity)

What creative solutions can be proposed to address the grading dilemma while upholding Stephen's principles?

ROOM #6: Blue Hat (Process Control)

How can Stephen and his college systematically review and possibly refine their grading practices to better serve their students' futures?"