Thinking Skills and Creative Thinking

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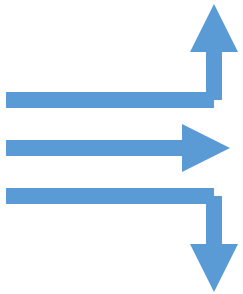
University of Malta



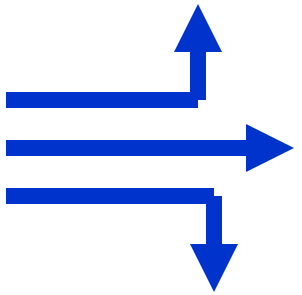
P.M.I.

PLUS MINUS INTERESTING

- This tool helps us to look at ALL the aspects of a subject or problem before making a decision.

- We use the P.M.I. tool when making a choice, designing a project...

P.M.I.



- Plus First, find all the Plus, positive points.
- Minus Then find all the Minus, negative points.
- Interesting Finally, look for the interesting points. Ask questions, think of solutions, present ideas that tackle the minus points

Design

Choice

Assessment

P.M.I.

No more school!

P

P

P

M

M

M

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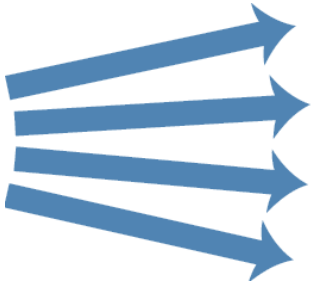


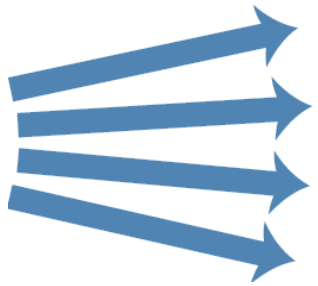
A.P.C.

ALTERNATIVES POSSIBILITIES CHOICES

- This tool helps us to look at ALL the possibilities when making decisions or taking action or looking for different explanations.

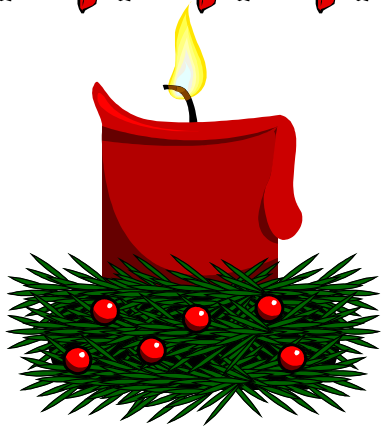
APC Alternatives Possibilities Choices

- When you have to make a decision or take action, you may at first think that you do not have all the choices at your disposal. But if you look for them you may find that there are more alternatives than you thought.

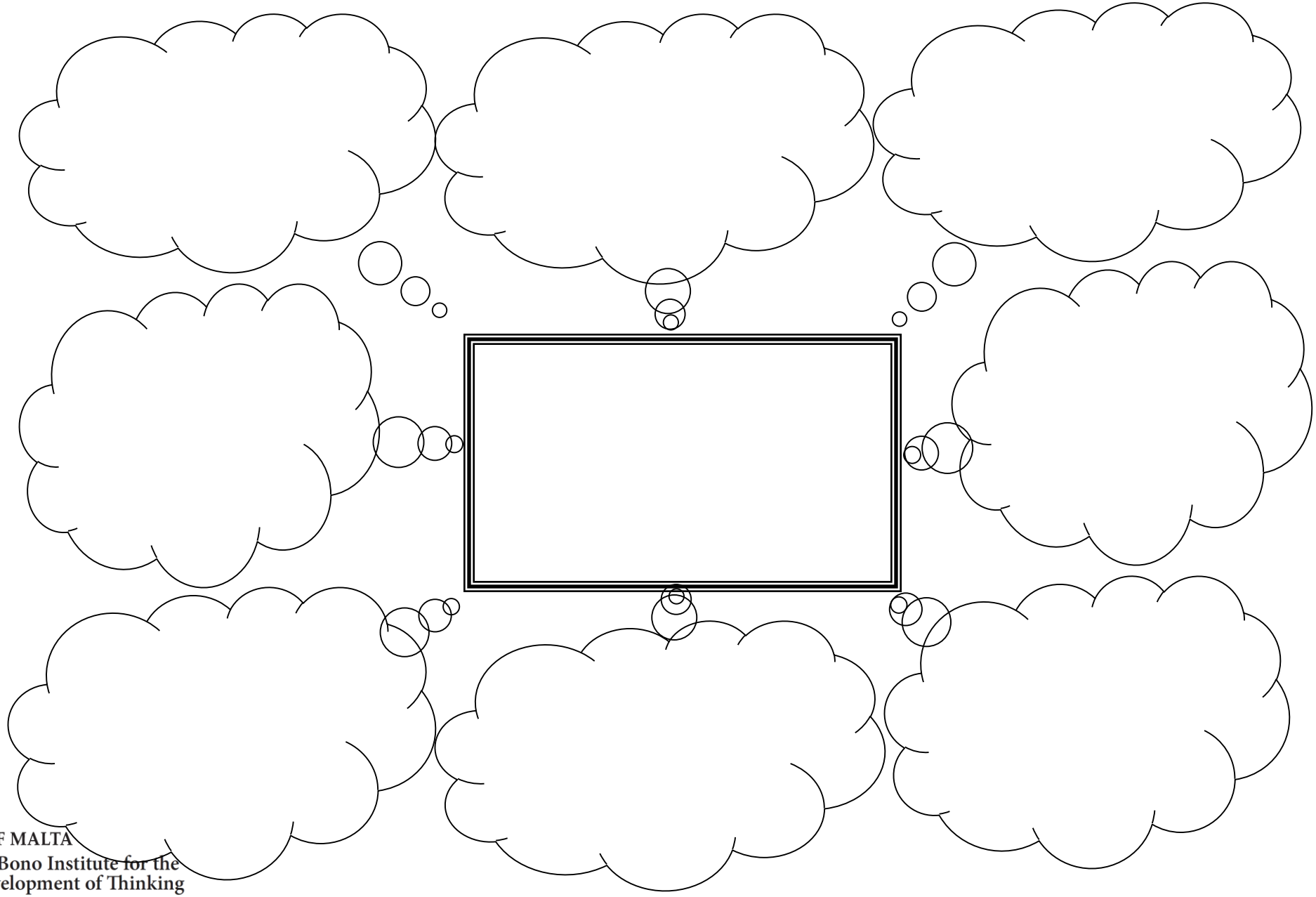


What are you doing during the Christmas Holidays?

Let's do an A.P.C!



A.P.C. Alternatives, Possibilities, Choices



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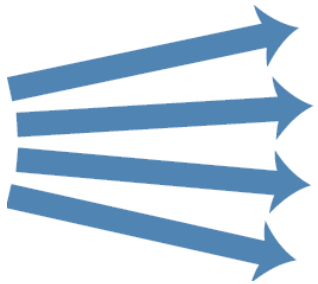
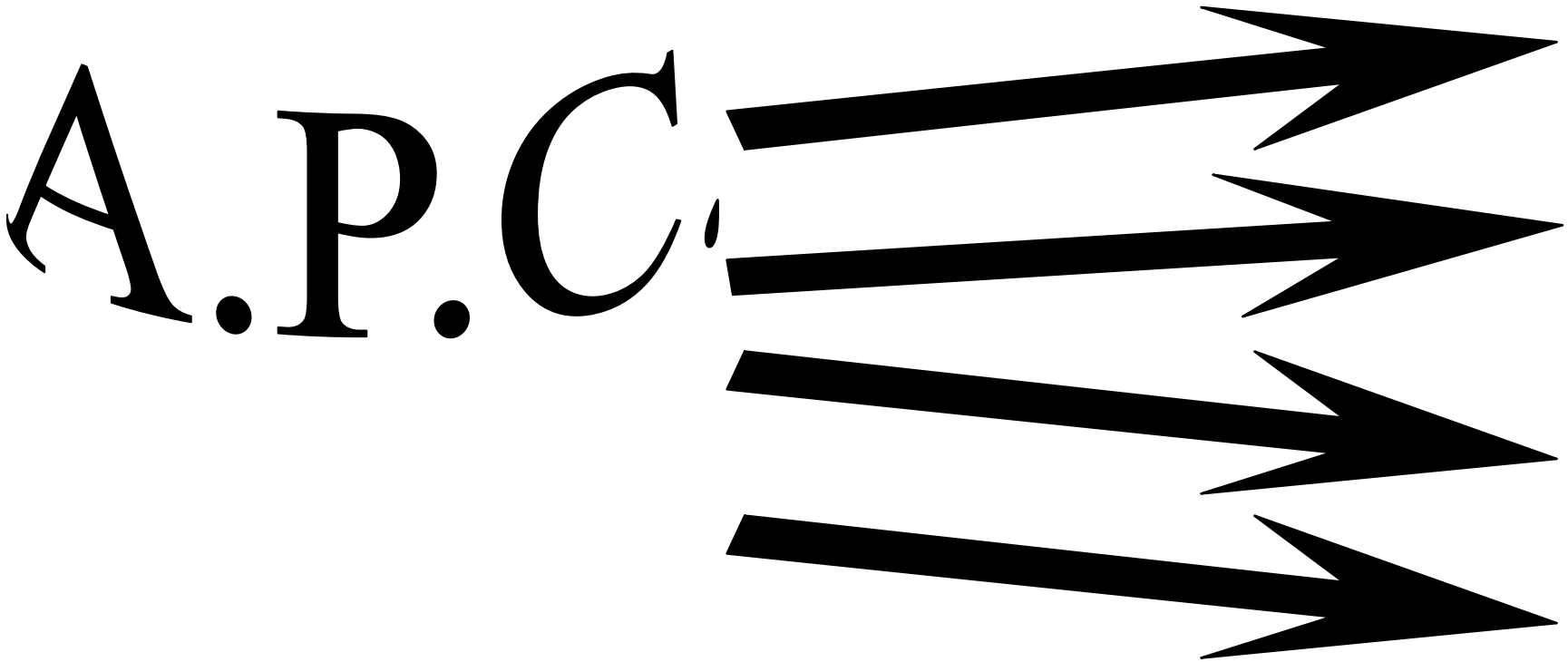
Want to try it out?

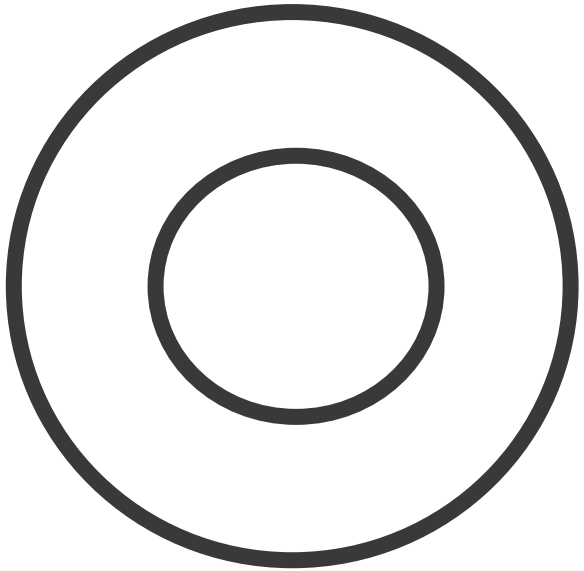
- A man goes into a bar and asks for a drink of water. The woman behind the bar gives him a drink of water and then suddenly screams. What possible explanations are there?



What else?



What is this?



Suggestions

window

ball

lazy river tyre

ball inside a hole

omelette

pool

clock

long play

athletics track

doughnut with jam filling

doughnut with a hole in middle

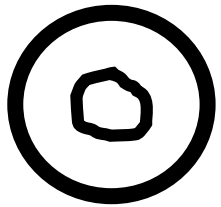
wall-hanging decorative plate

apple with a hole left by a worm

a huge water park pool

the shell of an egg after it hatched

blackhole in space



hole in a nose

plate with a cupcake in the middle

Suggestions

pool slide seen from the inside

bird’s egg in a nest

marble with a circular design

billiards ball

frisbee

hole in the ear

pond

egg in a pan

bowl for animal feed

doughnut with a chocolate centre

cookie

bagel

tyre

tadpole’s egg

mirror

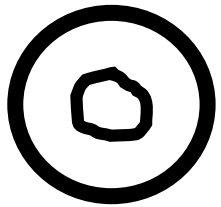
merry-go-round

polo mint

plate

cd

button



Suggestions

bowl

mouse’s hole

hat

aerial view of a volcano

plant pot

bead

manhole

bowl

water fountain

eye

sink hole

roundabout

pacifier

sliced olive

special type of orange

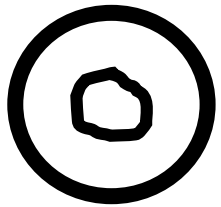
shield

pillow

ceiling fan at high speed

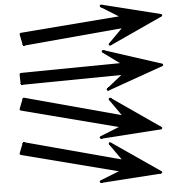
kiwi cut in half

belly button



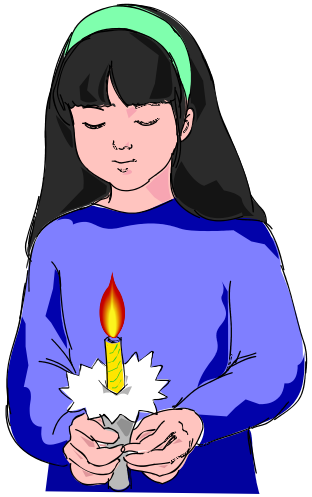
What happened?

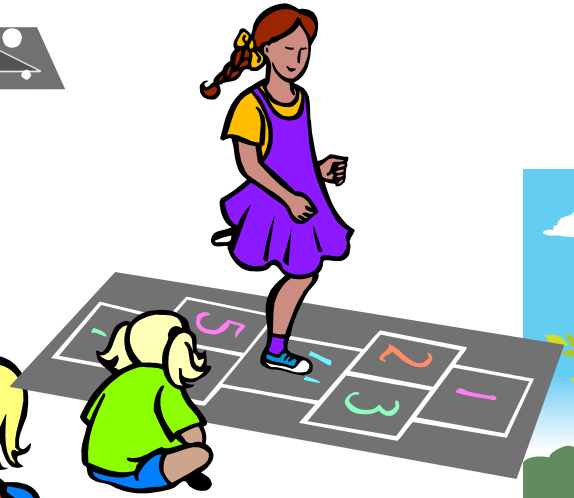
- A girl goes for a holiday on the mountains with her family. On a bright sunny day she goes out for a walk and in a field she sees a carrot and two pieces of coal. What explanation did she find for it?

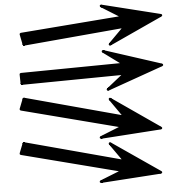


Can you improve it?

Becoming a better you







O.P.V.

Other People's Views

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Other People's Views

- The O.P.V. tool helps you to be able to tell how other people are thinking.

- One of the principles of this tool is that you should see the other person's point of view whether you agree with it or not.

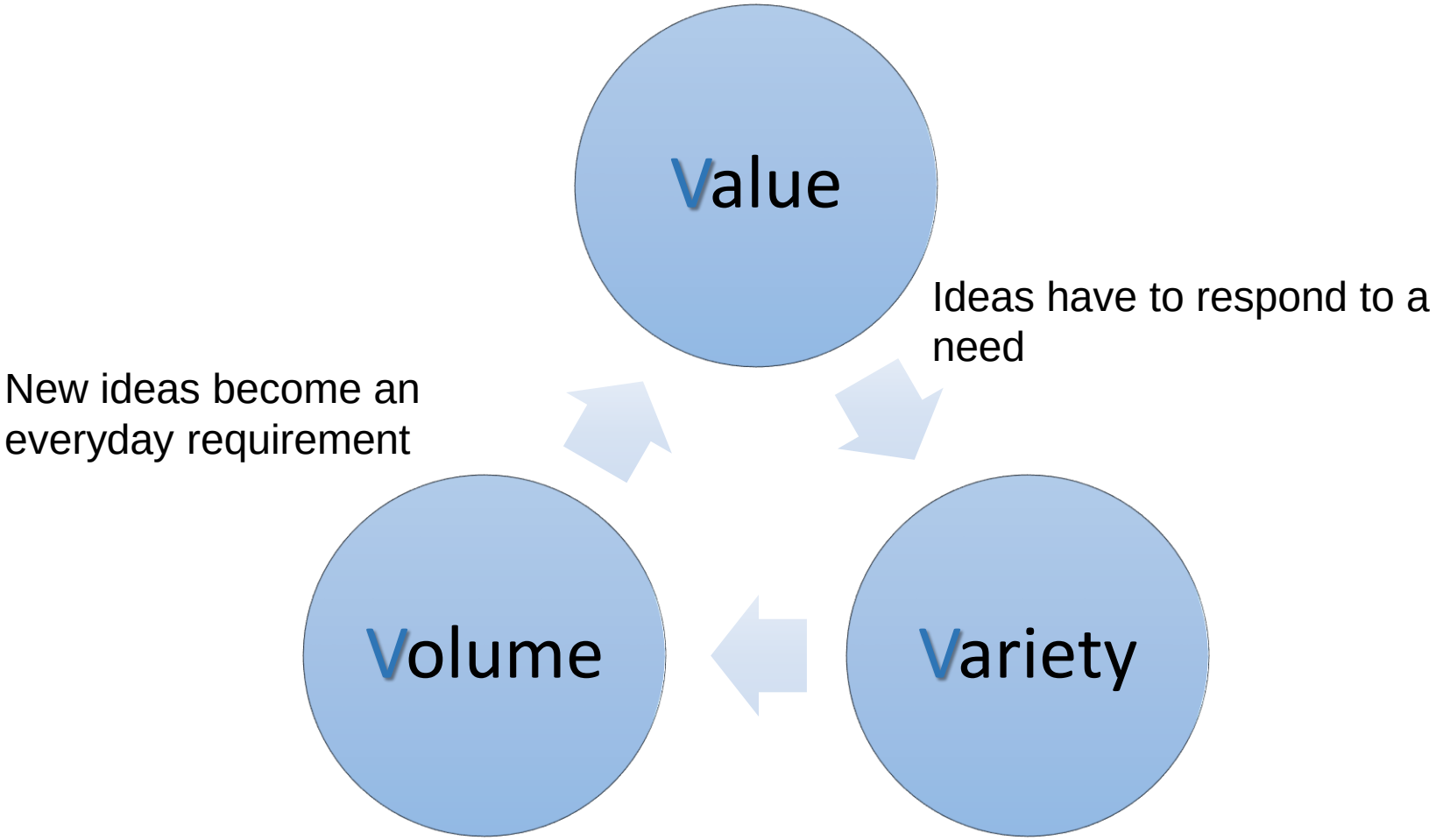
O.P.V.

Other People's Views

- Many thinking situations involve other people, possibly looking at things differently even if the situation is similar.

- First, make a list of all the people involved.
- Then tackle each one on the list – put yourself in that person or group's shoes.

The 3 V's of cr3ativity (Pulis Xerxen, 2013)

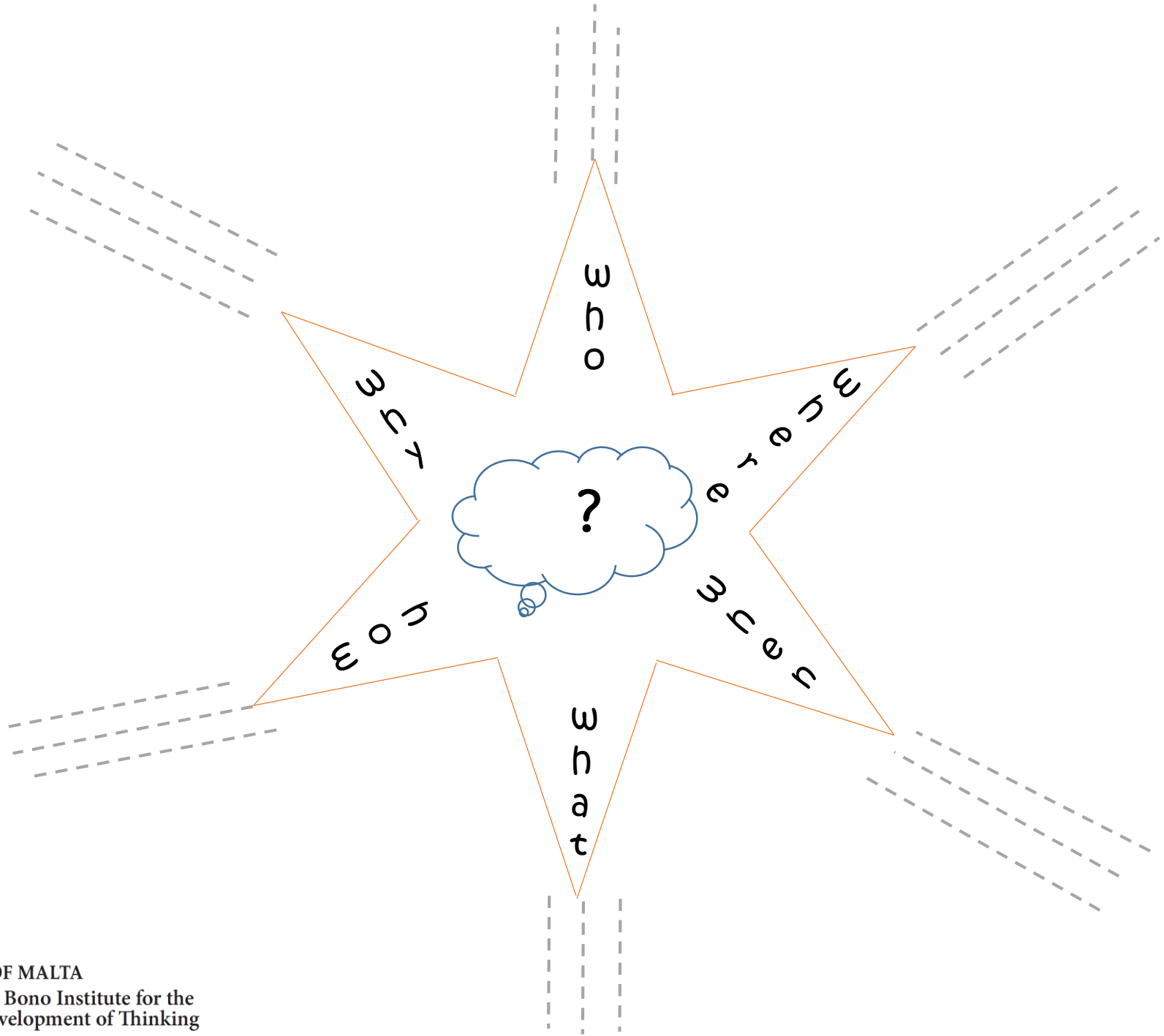


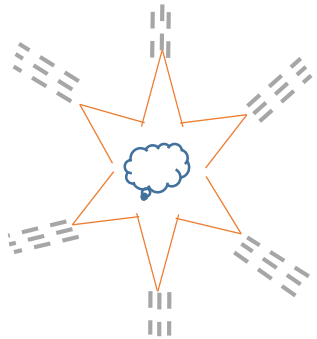
Starbursting

More details of this tool can be found on mindtools.com

Starbursting

- Starbursting is a form of brainstorming that focuses on generating questions rather than answers.
- For example, a friend suggests starting a small business together.
  - One question you ask might be “What will we be selling?”
- But you need to go further than this to ensure that you thinking is complete:
  - “How can I start a business?”, “Who has the expertise to help me with starting a business?” ….





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Using Starbursting

- **Step 1**

Take a large sheet of paper, draw a large six-pointed star in the middle, and write your idea, product or challenge in the centre.

- **Step 2**

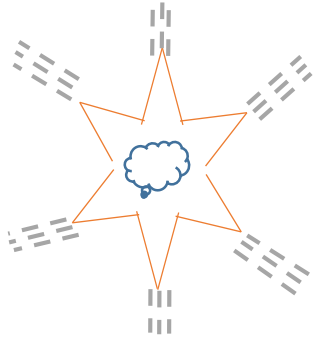
Write the words Who, What, Why, Where, When and How at the tip of each point of the star.

- **Step 3**

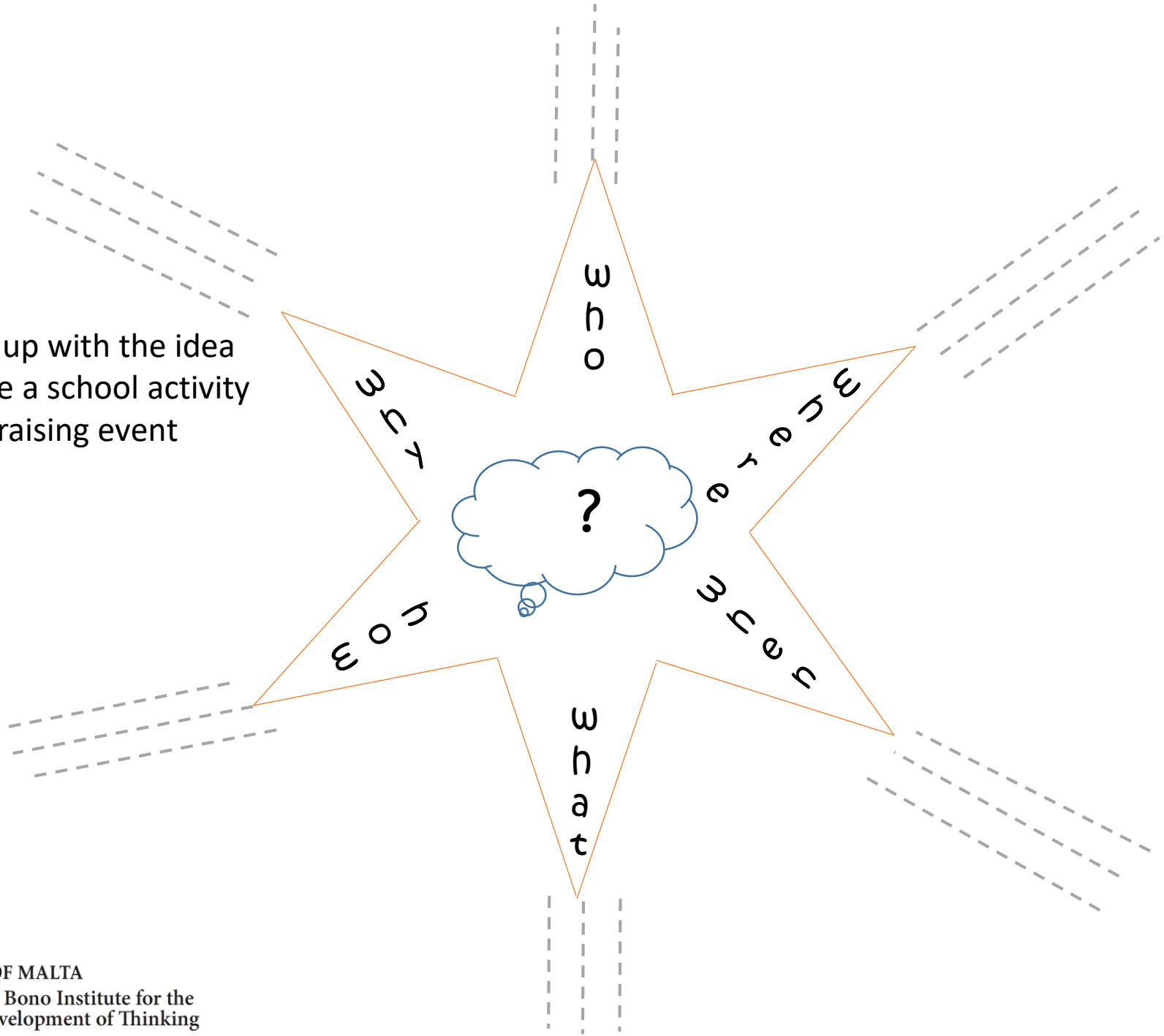
Brainstorm questions about the idea, problem or challenge starting with each of these words. The questions radiate out from the central star. Don't try to answer any of the questions as you go along. Instead, concentrate on thinking up as many questions as you can.

- **Step 4**

Depending on the scope of the exercise, you may want to have further starbursting sessions to explore the answers to these initial questions further.



You come up with the idea to organize a school activity as a fund-raising event



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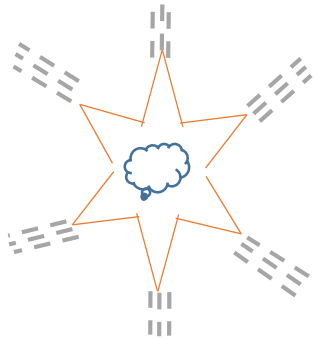

Starbursting

- In what situations can you use this tool?
  - At school
  - At home
  - With friends

Edward de Bono's

Six Thinking Hats

An aid to decision making and problem solving.

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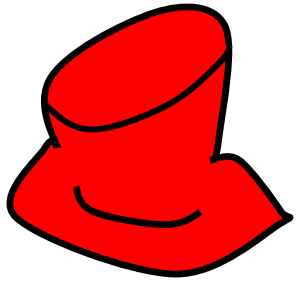
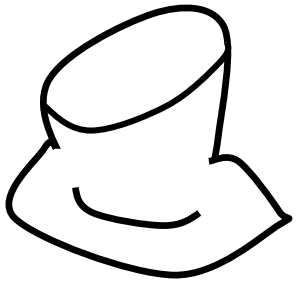
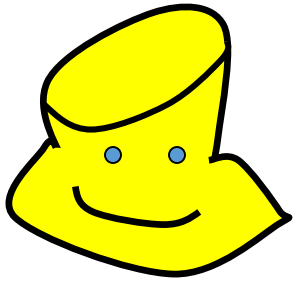
Six Thinking Hats



Intuitive

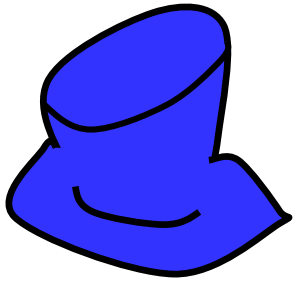


Informative

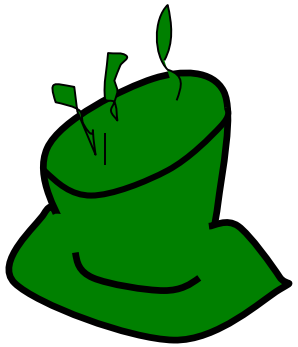


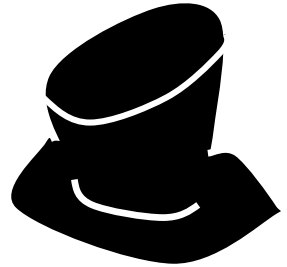
Constructive

Reflective



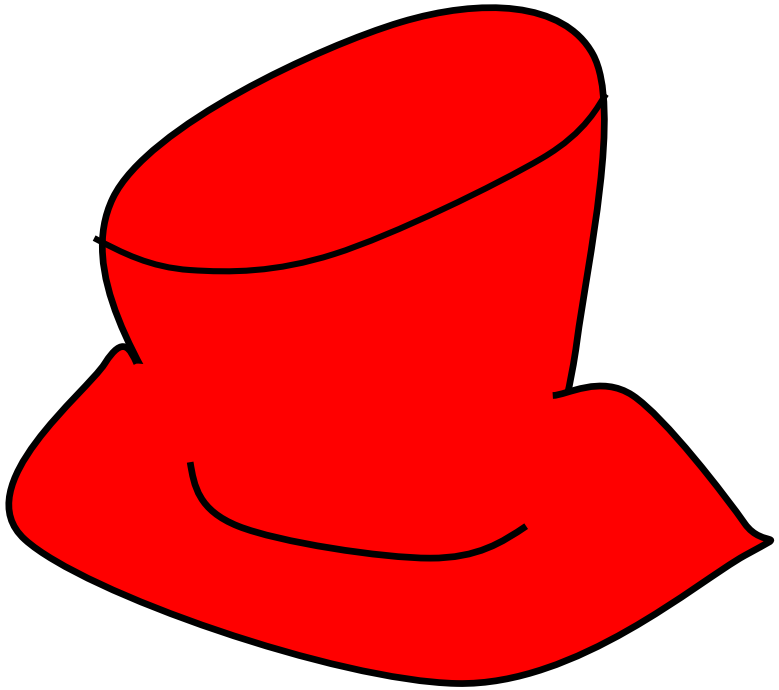
Creative





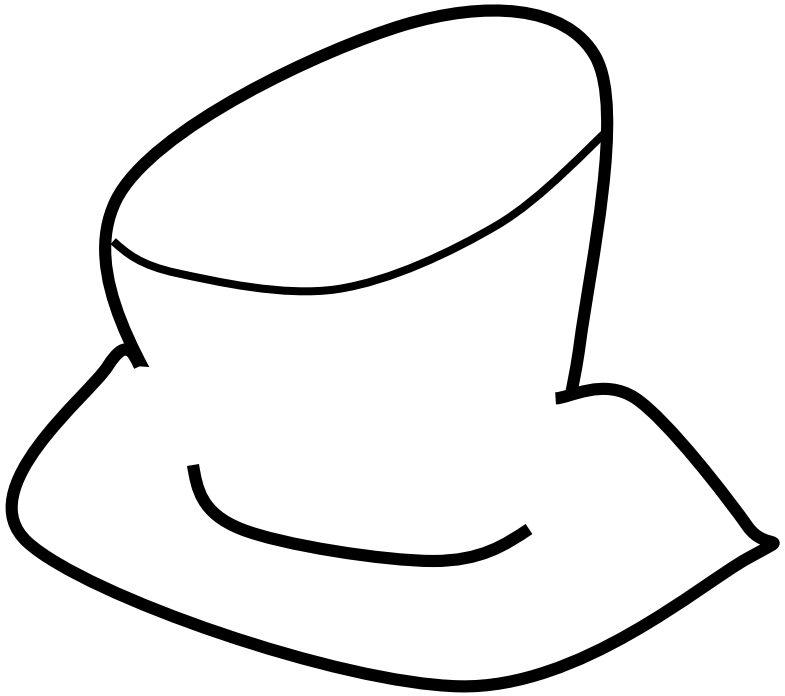
Cautious

The Red Hat



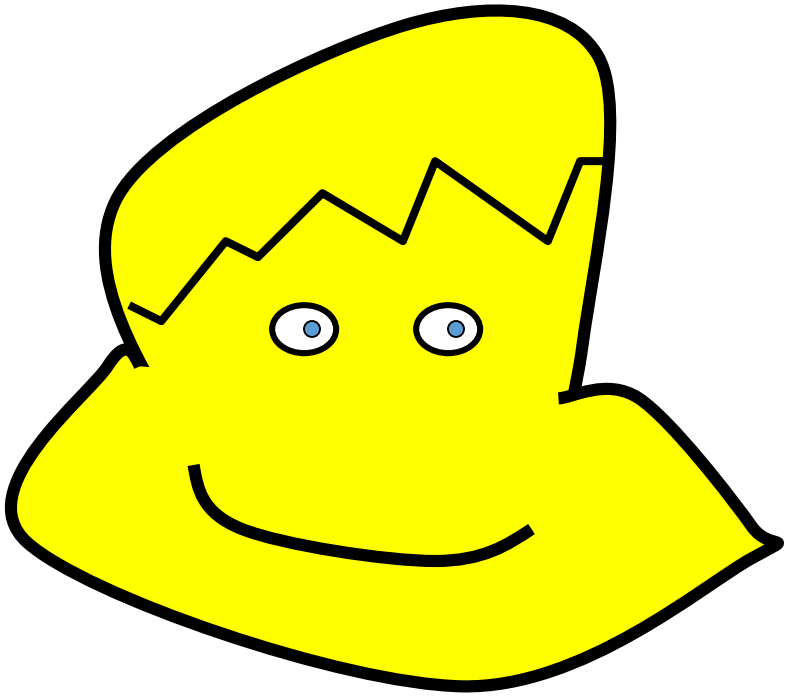
- What do you feel about the suggestion?
- What are your gut reactions?
- What intuitions do you have?
- Don’t think too long or too hard.

The White Hat



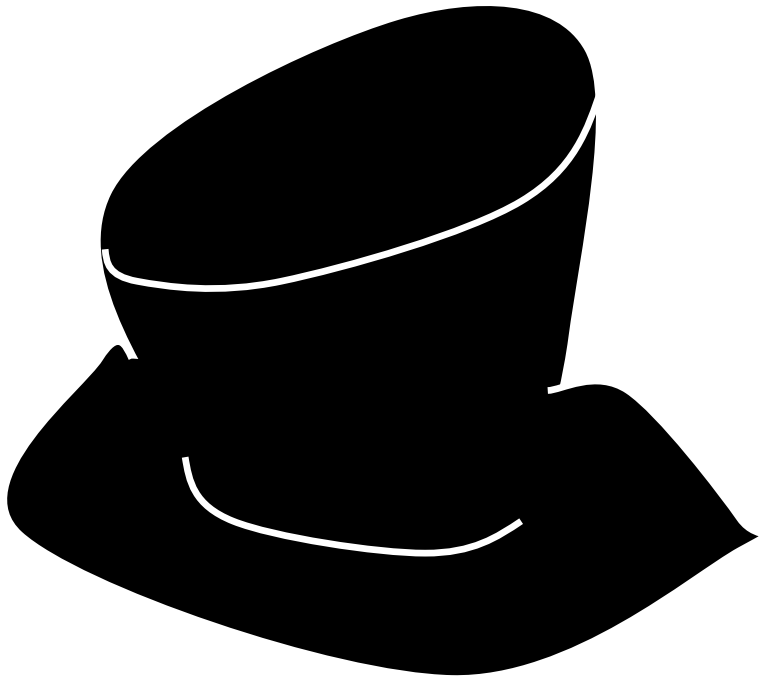
- The information seeking hat.
- What are the facts?
- What information is available? What is relevant?
- When wearing the white hat we are neutral in our thinking.

The Yellow Hat



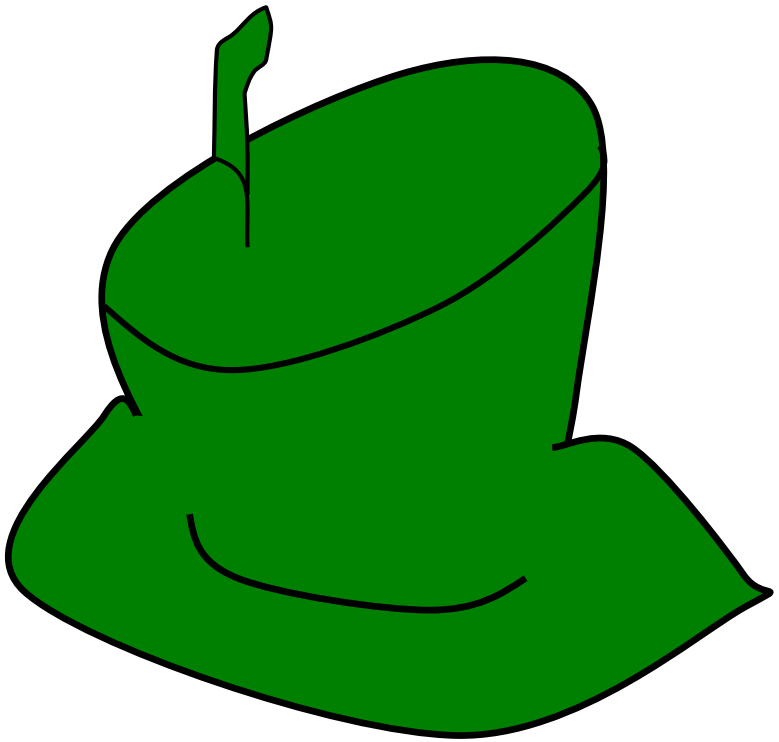
- The sunshine hat.
- It is positive and constructive.
- It is about effectiveness and getting a job done.
- What are the benefits, the advantages?

The Black Hat



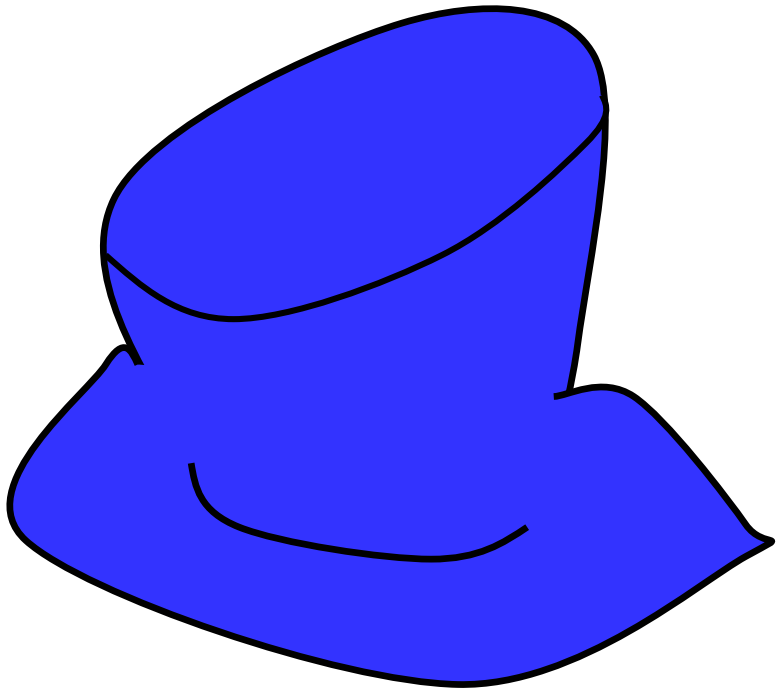
- The caution hat.
- In black hat the thinker points out errors or pit-falls.
- What are the risks or dangers involved?
- Identifies difficulties and problems.

The Green Hat



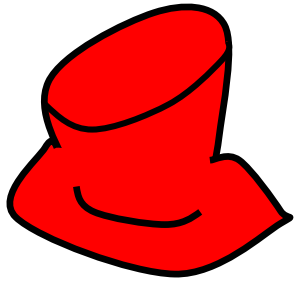
- This is the creative mode of thinking.
- Green represents growth and movement.
- In green hat we look to new ideas and solutions.
- Lateral thinking wears a green hat.

The Blue Hat

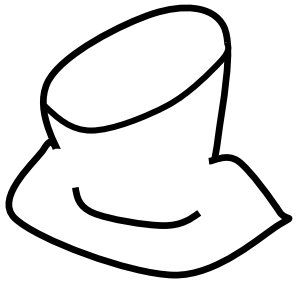


- The control hat, organising thinking itself.
- Sets the focus, calls for the use of other hats.
- Monitors and reflects on the thinking processes used.
- Blue is for planning.

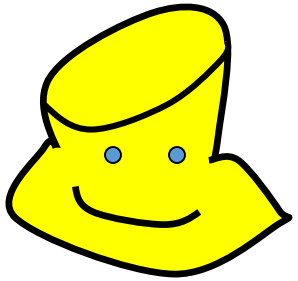
Six Thinking Hats



Intuitive

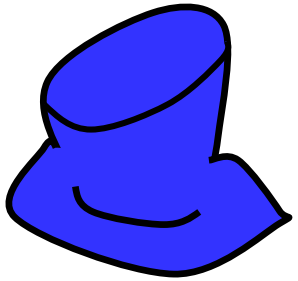


Informative

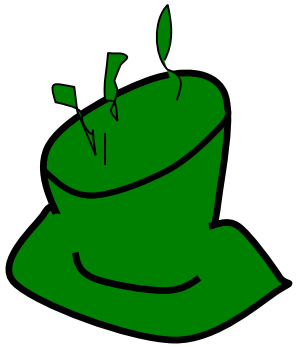


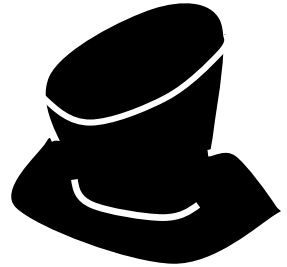
Constructive

Reflective



Creative





Cautious

Lateral Thinking

Rather puzzlin'…

- A man rides into town on Friday. He stays three nights and leaves on Friday. How can you explain it?

The Random Word

Lateral Thinking tool invented by Edward de Bono

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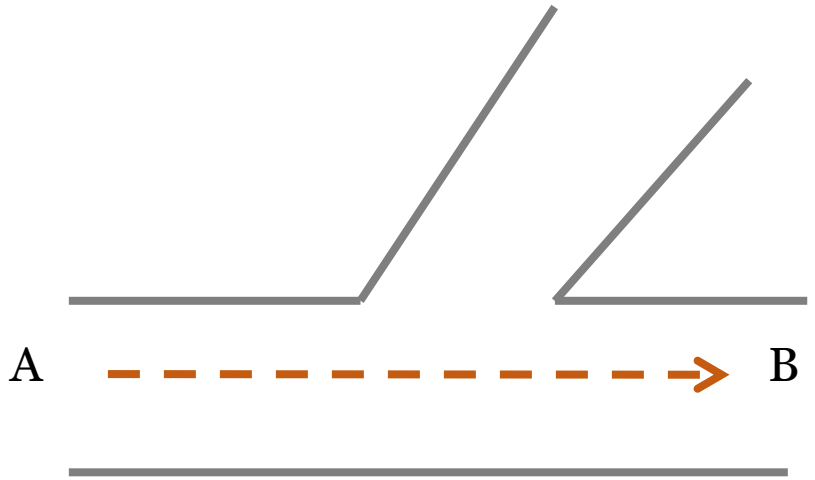
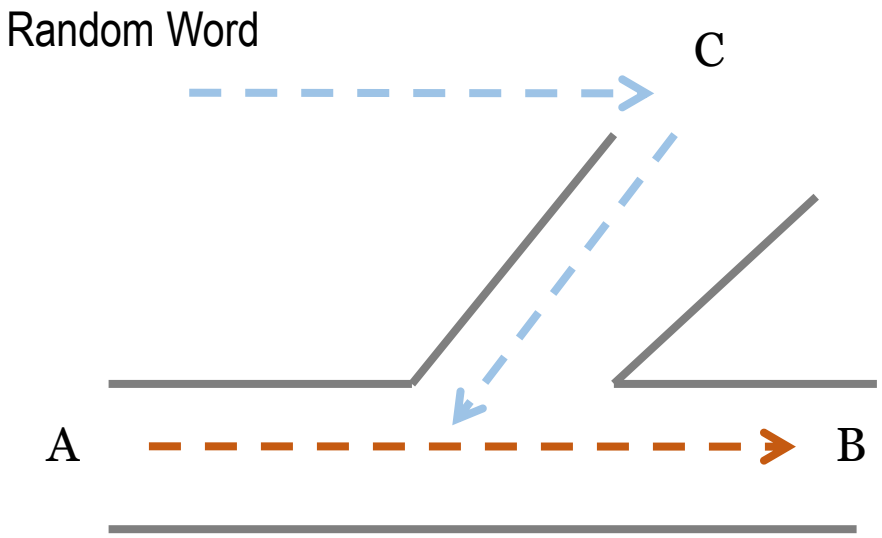
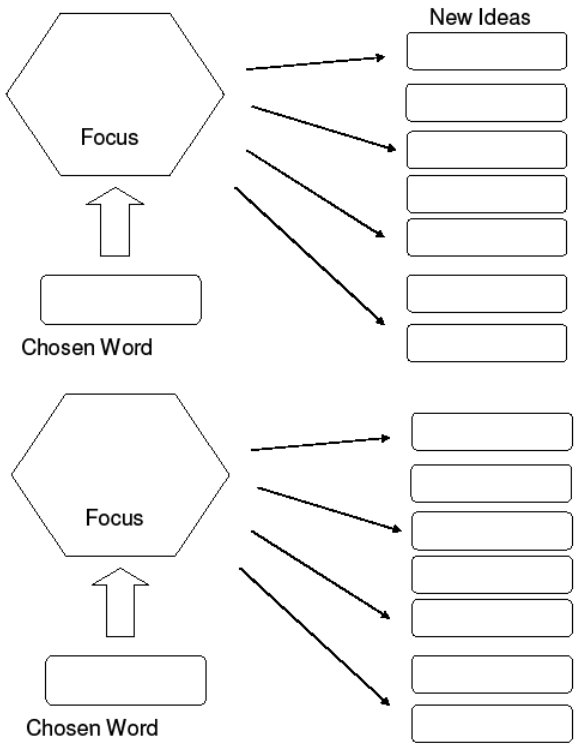
The Random Word technique





How It Works:



- 1. Decide your focus/ objective.
- 2. Select a random word from a list.
- 3. Use that random word to get new ideas.

For more information refer to *Serious Creativity,*

Edward de Bono

1.Aeroplane
2.Air
3.Album
4.Apple
5.Balloon

6.Banana
7.Bank
8.Butterfly
9.Button
10.Chisel

11.Church
12.Circus
13.Desk
14.Earth
15.Egg

16.Electricity
17.Elephant
18.Flower
19.Foot
20.Fork

21.Game
22.Garden
23.Guitar
24.Hammer
25.Hat

26.Ice-cream
27.Insect
28.Jet fighter
29.Kaleidoscope
30.Kitchen

31.Knife
32.Leg
33.Library
34.Liquid
35.Magnet

36.Man
37.Map
38.Milkshake
39.Mouth
40.Nail

41.Navy
42.Needle
43.Onion
44.Post-office
45.Prison

46.Pyramid
47.Radar
48.Rock
49.School
50.Skeleton

51.Slave
52.Snail
53.Teeth
54.Tiger
55.Triangle

56.Typewriter
57.Umbrella
58.Vacuum
59.Window
60.Worm

Let's practice!

REMEMBER: Suspend judgement!

- Get in groups of 4 or 5 max.
- Choose a number from 1 to 60 and check which is your random word.
- Generate ideas on the following challenge – the Random word needs to be your stepping stone.

Come up with ideas that will help you cultivate a culture that promotes thinking in the classroom

Conclusion