

## Why Consider Various Thinking and Learning Styles?

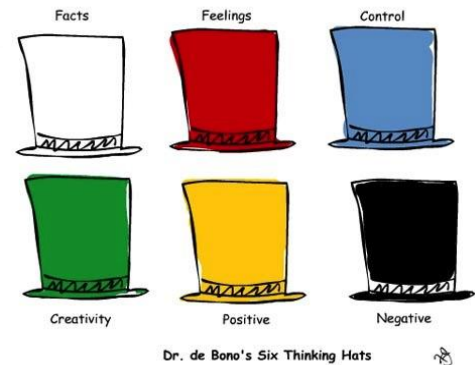
Understanding the ways individuals process information and learn will improve learning transfer, communications, building of relationships, dealing with difficult situations and help your work be more effective.

### Here are some example systems

#### Six Thinking Hats.

Note: It is possible to wear more than one hat, and one hat is not better or worse than the other!

1. **White** – Focuses on observable data, what is known and what could be missing, “just the facts”
2. **Yellow** – The positive perspective, focuses on advantages or opportunities, “the optimist”
3. **Black** – Focuses on risks, problems and challenges, “the pessimist”
4. **Red** – The emotional perspective, does not need to explain or rationalize, “feelings, intuition and emotions”
5. **Green** – Innovation and thinking outside the box, the brainstormer, “creativity and imagination”
6. **Blue** – Systemic thinking, seeing the integrated whole as more than a sum of the parts, oversight and management, “the big picture”



Want to help people learn better?  
Understand learning styles.

#### Gardner's Multiple Intelligences: How one learns or solves problems.

Note: It is possible to utilize more than one method!

1. **Linguistic/Auditory** – Sounds, rhythms, meanings of words, written and spoken language, “tell me”
  - a. Use discussions, Q & A, record information to audio/visual formats
  - b. Utilize writing activities
2. **Logical-mathematical** – Numerical patterns, inductive and deductive reasoning
  - a. Develop lists or processes with patterns, design programs and modeling
  - b. Use compare/contrast activities
3. **Musical** – Rhythm, tone, pitch
  - a. Play music and discuss how the words and rhythms support a concept

4. **Spatial** – Transformation of concepts, perceptions and mental images into visual examples, “show me”
  - a. Use maps, color coding and flow charts
  - b. Utilize graphic notetaking or flash cards
5. **Kinesthetic/Tactile** – Movement and handling of objects, practical experience, “let me try”
  - a. Utilize role playing or artistic activities
6. **Interpersonal** – Responsive to mood, motivations and desires of others
  - a. Allow for small groups led by participant volunteers
  - b. Utilize role playing
7. **Intrapersonal** – Understanding and utilization of one’s own feelings, strengths, weaknesses, intelligences
  - a. Allow time for reflection or individual activities
8. **Naturalist** – Recognition and classification of the natural world
  - a. Use field trips as a learning tool

### **How does this understanding help me?**

Understanding and appreciating the different thinking perspective can

- Help tease out creative energy within your group
- generate momentum and strengthen the group’s productivity
- give validation to all perspectives
- suspend judgment so more ideas can be brought out
- improve communication and decision making
- help overall thinking be clearer (since different perspectives are brought to light)

