Interactive Product Design Studio

Identifying Your Role

Why is it important to identify roles?

Why is it important to identify your role on a team?

•Clarify and focus on your contribution to a project

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- Clarify your interactions with your teammates

- See how responsibilities could be re-shaped a bit

- Helps you operate more efficiently as a team

When you are identifying your role, ask yourself…

- What are my strengths?

- What are my weaknesses?

- What 'type of person' would you describe yourself as?

Six Thinking Hats by Edward de Bono (1985)

- In a team, you may like to use the six thinking hats by identifying with a symbolic 'thinking hat'.
- This forces you to move outside your habitual thinking style, and look to things from a number of different perspectives – allowing you to get a more rounded view of your situation.
- For Activity 1., consider which 'hat' you most naturally align yourself to.
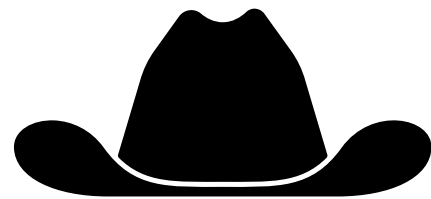
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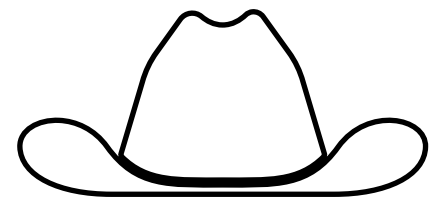
**The White Hat** calls for information known or needed. "The facts, just the facts."

The Yellow Hat symbolises brightness and optimism. Under this hat you explore the positives and probe for value and benefit.

The Black Hat is judgment - the devil's advocate or why something may not work. Spot the difficulties and dangers; where things might go wrong. Probably the most powerful and useful of the Hats but a problem if overused.

The Red Hat signifies feelings, hunches and intuition. When using this hat you can express emotions and feelings and share fears, likes, dislikes, loves, and hates.
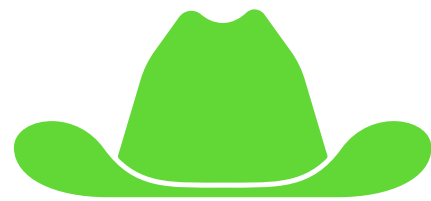
The Green Hat focuses on creativity; the possibilities, alternatives, and new ideas. It's an opportunity to express new concepts and new perceptions.
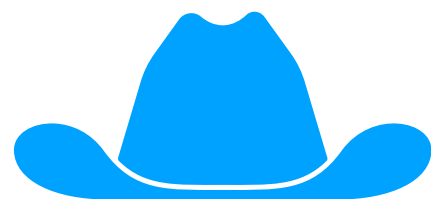
The Blue Hat is used to manage the thinking process. It's the control mechanism that ensures the Six Thinking Hats® guidelines are observed.

Activity 1.

Brainstorm a role that suites your skills and expertise.

Activity 1. Part 1: Describe yourself (10 minutes)

My strengths

Could be really devoted into one thing

My weakness

an indecision person

My hobbies / interests are... gaming drawing coding

I would describe myself as... (Refer to de Bono's '6 Thinking Hats') Black hat

My goals for this project / unit of study... HD/D

Activity 1. Part 2.

Now try thinking more specific, what are your strengths in these areas:

1. Design (Ideating, design research, conceptualising, etc.)
2. Visual Communication (Photoshop, Illustrator, Computer Graphics, Drawing, etc.)
3. Programming (Software dev, Databases, Web dev, Hardware etc.)

(10 minutes)

Activity 1. Part 2. What are your strengths in these areas:

Identify and include the skill, your skill level and experience. (15 minutes)

Design

e.g.
    Skill: Design research
    Level: Good
    Project/s: Biodesign Challenge
    etc.

Quantitive basic research

Visual Communication

e.g.
    Program: Photoshop
    Level: Expert
    Project: Working as a Graphic Designer
    etc.

PS AI PR

Programming

e.g.
    Program: Arduino
    Level: Working knowledge
    Project: IoT device development
    etc.

html css js py
web design
bootstrap

Activity 1. Part 3.

After having completed Part 1 and 2, reflect on your answers and use these to generate a role for yourself.

(5 minutes)

Activity 2.

Swap your answers to Part 1 and Part 2 with a partner, and define a role for them based on their answers.

(10 minutes)

Activity 2. Part 2.

Compare and discuss the roles you have defined.
Address **any differences** in the way you have defined the roles for each other.

(5 minutes)

Comparison

- Be sure to compare your responses from this activity with your group members.