Critical and Creative Thinking Skills

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Edward de Bono

• Operacy - the skill of doing
• Vertical Thinking
• Lateral Thinking
• Parallel Thinking
• Six Thinking Hats
• Teaching Thinking Skills
Lateral Thinking de Bono (1971)

- Generative thinking
- Exploratory
- Creative
- No Judgements
- Non-linear
- Welcomes chance
- Open-ended
Thinking Quiz

1. What can you hold in your right hand, but not in your left?

2. How many animals of each species did Moses take into the Ark?

3. If you were alone in a deserted house at night, and there was an oil lamp, a candle and firewood and you only have one match, which would you light first?

4. A graduate applying for pilot training with a major airline was asked what he would do if, after a long-haul flight to Dubai, he
• What can you hold in your right hand, but not in your left?
• Your left hand, forearm, or elbow
• How many animals of each species did Moses take into the Ark?
• None, Noah built the Ark
• If you were alone in a deserted house at night, and there was an oil lamp, a candle and firewood and you only have one match, which would you light first?
• The Match
• A graduate applying for pilot training with a major airline was asked what he would do if, after a long-haul flight to Dubai, he met the captain wearing a dress in the hotel bar.

• Nothing, the captain is a woman
• Which side of a cat contains the most hair?
• The Outside
Lateral Thinking

• A cowboy rode into town on Friday, spent one night there, and left on Friday. How do you account for this?
• His horse is named Friday.
de Bono’s Six Thinking Hats

- White Hat
- Red Hat
- Black Hat
- Yellow Hat
- Green Hat
- Blue Hat
White Hat

• **Information** – Facts and figures; what you have, what you need and where to get it, logical, like a computer.
Red Hat

- **Emotions** – Feelings, intuition, and instincts.
Black Hat

- **Negative** – Why it will not work, pessimistic, devil's advocate, pointing out potential problems.
Yellow Hat

- **Benefits** - Positive aspects and values, optimism, sunshine, constructive, best scenario.
Green Hat

• **Creativity** – Alternatives, options, new concepts and perceptions
Blue Hat

• **Managing the thinking** – Ensuring rules are observed, sequencing hats and decision making, control.
Parallel Thinking

• Everyone in a group assumes the role of each hat and together works through each mode of thinking to attack a problem from all viewpoints.
Web Quick List
Papers, References, Resources

• http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~csgtg/cimt862