# Six Thinking Hats Request

## UNESCO Perspective

Equitable

## General Use Bucket

Widening Student Engagement

## Goal

One of the approaches to generating good materials through brainstorming is by using a technique called the Six Hat technique. [Six Hats brainstorming](https://www.debonogroup.com/services/core-programs/six-thinking-hats/) This process has the person/people doing the brainstorming use one of 6 different emphases in order to generate different types of responses

## Tool Used:

Copilot

This example asks Copilot to generate ideas about how to assist PSEO students, who are students still in high school but taking college courses, in becoming successful in those college classes. I used the 6 Hats approach to generate this set of prompts.

The Six Hats idea is just one that helps focus questions for brainstorming.

* White hat: Focuses on facts and data
* Red hat: Focuses on feelings and hunches
* Black hat: Focuses on risks and disadvantages
* Yellow hat: Focuses on benefits and opportunities
* Green hat: Focuses on creativity and possibilities
* Blue hat: Focuses on planning and summarizing

[Six Hats brainstorming](https://www.debonogroup.com/services/core-programs/six-thinking-hats/)

### Prompt:

(Initial post question from the Red Hat (emotion) perspective:

“At our college we have PSEO (post-secondary education opportunity) students who are juniors and seniors in high school taking online and classroom courses at our college. A fair number of them are surprisingly and woefully unprepared for some of the basics of college--following due dates, showing up on time (or at all) for class, being prepared with equipment or materials and so on, preparing (reading, watching, creating) for class, communicating with the professor, etc. (some of this may still be post covid, but still, it is alarming). It is causing a great deal of concern and frustration for faculty in figuring out how to help and deal with these students. What we want to do: Help students understand and practice good, professional student behaviors in order to more smoothly progress in college classes. I am looking for suggestions on activities to help them learn more appropriate student behaviors for college.”

### AI:

It sounds like you're facing quite a challenge, but it's great that you're looking for proactive ways to support these students. Here are some activities and strategies that might help:

### **1. Orientation Workshops**

* **Time Management and Organization**: Conduct workshops that teach students how to use planners, set reminders, and prioritize tasks.
* **Expectations and Responsibilities**: Clearly outline what is expected in terms of attendance, participation, and communication.

### **2. Mentorship Programs**

* **Peer Mentors**: Pair PSEO students with college students who can guide them and share their experiences.
* **Faculty Mentors**: Assign faculty members to check in regularly with PSEO students to offer support and advice.

### **3. Interactive Learning Modules**

* **Online Modules**: Create short, interactive online courses on topics like effective study habits, note-taking, and preparing for exams.
* **Scenario-Based Learning**: Use role-playing or simulations to help students practice communicating with professors and handling common college situations.

### **4. Regular Check-Ins**

* **Progress Meetings**: Schedule regular meetings to discuss their progress, challenges, and any support they might need.
* **Feedback Sessions**: Provide constructive feedback on their performance and areas for improvement.

### **5. Skill-Building Activities**

* **Group Projects**: Encourage collaboration and responsibility through group assignments.
* **Public Speaking**: Organize activities that build confidence in speaking and presenting in front of others.

### **6. Resource Accessibility**

* **Study Resources**: Ensure they have access to study guides, tutoring services, and library resources.
* **Tech Support**: Provide assistance with any technical issues they might face with online learning platforms.

### **7. Incentives and Recognition**

* **Reward Systems**: Implement a system to recognize and reward students who consistently demonstrate good behaviors.
* **Certificates and Awards**: Offer certificates or small awards for milestones like perfect attendance or timely submission of assignments.

### **8. Parental Involvement**

* **Information Sessions**: Hold sessions for parents to help them understand the college expectations and how they can support their children.
* **Regular Updates**: Keep parents informed about their child's progress and any areas of concern.

### **9. Stress Management**

* **Wellness Programs**: Offer workshops on stress management, mindfulness, and balancing school with other responsibilities.
* **Counseling Services**: Make sure students know how to access mental health resources if needed.

Implementing these activities can help PSEO students develop the skills and habits they need to succeed in college. It's also important to create an environment where they feel supported and encouraged to ask for help when needed. How do these suggestions align with your current efforts?

### Prompt:

I then asked from the Green Hat (creativity) perspective:

This is helpful in suggesting things that, for the most part, we are doing or attempting to do. I would like to find some more creative ways to engage these students so that they are more committed to timely, involved, thorough classwork and interactions. Might there be some unusual things that we could try?

### AI:

Absolutely! Here are some creative and unconventional ideas to engage PSEO students and encourage better academic behaviors:

### **1. Gamification**

* **Classroom Challenges**: Turn assignments and class participation into a game where students earn points or badges for completing tasks on time, participating in discussions, and attending classes.
* **Leaderboards**: Display a leaderboard to foster a friendly competition among students.

### **2. Escape Rooms**

* **Educational Escape Rooms**: Create escape room scenarios related to course content where students must solve puzzles and complete tasks to "escape." This can promote teamwork, critical thinking, and timely completion of tasks.

### **3. Interactive Storytelling**

* **Choose-Your-Own-Adventure**: Develop interactive stories where students make decisions that affect the outcome. These stories can be related to course material or college life skills.
* **Digital Narratives**: Use platforms like Twine to create digital narratives that students can explore and learn from.

### **4. Flipped Classroom**

* **Student-Led Sessions**: Have students take turns leading class sessions or discussions on topics they have prepared. This encourages them to be well-prepared and engaged.
* **Interactive Videos**: Use interactive video platforms where students must answer questions or complete tasks while watching lecture videos.

### **5. Service Learning Projects**

* **Community Engagement**: Integrate service learning projects that require students to apply course concepts to real-world problems in their communities. This can increase their sense of responsibility and relevance of their studies.

### **6. Hackathons and Competitions**

* **Academic Hackathons**: Organize hackathons where students work in teams to solve academic challenges or create projects related to their courses.
* **Competitions**: Host competitions for the best project, presentation, or research paper, with prizes for the winners.

### **7. Themed Study Sessions**

* **Study Parties**: Organize themed study sessions with snacks, music, and a relaxed atmosphere to make studying more enjoyable.
* **Costume Study Nights**: Have students dress up according to a theme related to the course material.

### **8. Interactive Tech Tools**

* **Augmented Reality (AR)**: Use AR apps to create interactive learning experiences that bring course content to life.
* **Virtual Reality (VR)**: Incorporate VR experiences for immersive learning, such as virtual field trips or simulations.

### **9. Peer Teaching**

* **Teach-Back Sessions**: Have students teach a concept or topic to their peers. This reinforces their understanding and builds confidence.
* **Study Groups**: Form study groups where students can support each other and hold each other accountable.

### **10. Creative Assignments**

* **Multimedia Projects**: Allow students to create videos, podcasts, or digital art as part of their assignments.
* **Interactive Portfolios**: Have students create digital portfolios that showcase their work and progress throughout the course.

These creative approaches can make learning more engaging and help students develop the skills and habits they need to succeed in college. Which of these ideas do you think might resonate most with your students?

## Overview

I especially like the Escape Room idea and the multi-media or interactive portfolio ideas—I think that these would be engaging, and could still have students learning classroom and college skills, but in a way that was perhaps more fun, and even more, called on them to create content, which is very much a modern perspective on teaching right now.

I think that brainstorming is an excellent option for student use of AI, but I also think it is helpful

* when looking to create an outline
* Finding new ways of working on an idea
* Finding a new presentation style
* Summarizing
* Expanding on a point
* Evaluating sources
* Setting up a work schedule for a project

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So, the initial prompt used feeling words (red hat) such as "concerned" and "frustrated" and "alarming" and then asked:

"At our college we have PSEO (post-secondary education opportunity) students who are juniors and seniors in high school taking online and classroom courses at our college. A fair number of them are surprisingly and woefully unprepared for some of the basics of college--following due dates, showing up on time (or at all) for class, being prepared with equipment or materials and so on, preparing (reading, watching, creating) for class, communicating with the professor, etc. (some of this may still be due to a post-covid set of realities, but still, it is alarming). It is causing a great deal of concern and frustration for faculty in figuring out how to help and deal with these students. What we want to do: Help students understand and practice good, professional student behaviors in order to more smoothly progress in college classes. I am looking for suggestions on activities to help them learn more appropriate student behaviors for college. "

## Points of Human Intervention

The response from the AI generated ideas that, while thoughtful and thorough, were also things we were doing at our college to try and assist these PSEO students. I switched to using the green hat (creativity) and asked again in this way:

"This is helpful in suggesting things that, for the most part, we are doing or attempting to do. I would like to find some more creative ways to engage these students so that they are more committed to timely, involved, thorough classwork and interactions. Might there be some unusual things that we could try?

The next list generated by Copilot was much more interesting, had a number of creative ways that would increase student engagement, such as gamification, multi-media creation, escape room approaches, and more. These were ways to connect with students, asking their creativity to emerge, having them assist in the learning and teaching process, and assisting students in connecting with one another.

The content of the assignments would be based on the faculty's knowledge and the course needs, but the structure here for interesting teaching and learning is now set up and useful.

## Post-AI Revisions

* Much more specific assignment detail would need to be added
* Directions would need to be created that assisted students in understanding any technology involved
* Small step deadlines would assist in keeping a project moving along