

Stormwater Unit

Evaluation of Recommendations

The students will need strategies to help them evaluate their recommendations.

Some strategies include:

- Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats
- Priority Organisers
- Pros Cons Questions
- Plus Minus Interesting

The strategy of choice could be used by individuals, pairs or groups of students.

Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats

A simplified template is included with this learning program which shows only two of the Thinking Hats, the yellow hat and the black hat. The yellow hat thinking encourages the students to consider the advantages, benefits and values of the recommendations. The black hat encourages students to consider the disadvantages, difficulties and dangers associated with the group's recommendations.

Priority Organisers

This strategy could be used to prioritise the students' list of recommendations. Templates are included with this learning program.

Children transfer their list of ideas/recommendations to the first round of the organiser. This is done similarly to knockout sporting competitions. The recommendation which initially is considered the best is placed at the top of the organiser. The second best idea is placed at the bottom of the organiser. The third best is placed about three-quarters of the way down. This process is continued until all the ideas are placed in the first round of the organiser where the ideas are now seeded.

The children can now begin prioritising the recommendations by debating which recommendation is the best one to proceed in the sets of pairs. The next round of the organiser is formed from the winners of the first round. Repeat this process until there is a winner.

Pros Cons Questions

Drawing up a simple table can assist children in organising their critical thinking when attempting to analyse their recommendations. In the Pros column the children list all the strengths, advantages and benefits of the individual ideas. In the Cons column the children list all the weaknesses, disadvantages and opposing ideas. The Questions column offers the opportunity to explore the idea further ie probe more deeply into the idea. This thinking strategy could help the students decide winners for the priority organisers.

Plus Minus Interesting

This strategy is similar to Pros Cons Questions. A simple table can be drawn up with the headings to enable the children to organise their thinking. This then should give the student the ability to better analyse recommendations.

The above strategies are suggestions. There are many other thinking strategies with which individual students and teachers may be experienced and therefore choose to use in order to reach decisions regarding the final recommendations that will be made to the school community.