

- 1. Intelligence is overrated.**
 - a. Great thinkers are built, not born.
 - b. Good thinking ≠ intelligence
- 2. Intelligence means potential for good thinking, but many intelligent people never seize upon their potential.**
 - a. They never learn *how* to think.
 - b. By contrast, many people are excellent thinkers, even without much natural talent.
 - c. They had good teachers and practiced a lot.
 - d. Edward de Bono says intelligence is like a car, "A powerful car may be driven badly. A less powerful car may be driven well. The skill of the driver determines how the power of the car is used."
- 3. Schools don't teach kids *how* to think.**
 - a. They teach math, history, and literature "just in case," but all that goes to waste unless kids know what to do with it.
- 4. Good thinking is the skill of putting the available information to the best use possible.**
 - a. Good thinking is more than critical thinking, logic, and analysis.
 - b. It also includes creativity, exploration, design, and perception.
- 5. The best thinkers use a big tool box.**
 - a. They're skilled at both analytical and elastic thinking:
 - i. So, how do you learn to think?
 - ii. And how do you teach your kids?
- 6. Edward de Bono wrote an amazing book on this exact topic: Teach Your Child How To Think.**
 - a. de Bono encourages parents to teach their kids the different "thinking hats."
 - i. White Hat: Facts + figures + information
 - ii. Red Hat: Emotions + feelings + intuitions
 - iii. Black Hat: Caution + truth + judgment
 - iv. Yellow Hat: Advantages + benefits + savings
 - v. Green Hat: Exploration + proposals + suggestions
 - vi. Blue Hat: Thinking about thinking + Control of the thinking process
 - b. Too often, we act like the White Hat (facts) and Black Hat (judgment) are the only valuable perspectives.
 - c. But good thinkers use all six hats.
 - d. Good thinkers also consider their emotions, evaluate upsides, propose crazy ideas, and monitor their overall thinking process.
 - e. The six hats help kids see with a wide-angle lens.
 - f. Kids learn to broaden their perception and use a diverse set of mental skills.
 - g. In other words, they build wisdom.

7. Wisdom is the goal of good thinking.

- a. It's the habit of observing the breadth of a situation.
- b. And unlike intelligence, wisdom is not a natural born talent.
- c. It's also not the natural product of age.
- d. We've all met wise kids and foolish adults!

8. Wisdom comes from deliberate practice.

- a. It requires mentorship and experience solving complex problems.
- b. In the right learning environment, kids can build more wisdom in a year than many adults learn their entire lives.
- c. Wisdom can be taught, it's a matter of teaching perception - not just logic.

9. Intelligence is a potential and for that potential to be fully used, kids need to develop a tool box of thinking skills.

- a. Without such skills, the potential is under-used.
- b. We can use de Bono's "Thinking Hats method" to help kids develop this big tool box of mental skills.