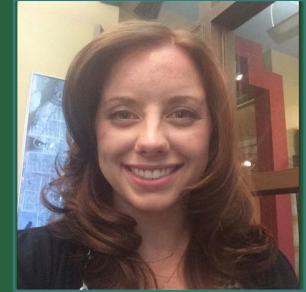




Professional Development with BSPH CTL

The Curious Learner: The Intersection of Curiosity and Adult Learning

Amy Pinkerton, MA
Senior Instructional Designer
JH BSPH CTL



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Why Explore Curiosity? Quote from *Measures of Curiosity*

“Scientists, including Einstein, Pasteur, Curie, Freud, Piaget, Da Vinci, [and others] hold **curiosity** as one of the most, if not the **most valuable tool** for engagement in scientific and artistic **endeavors.**”



Learning Objectives

Define **Curiosity**

Discuss the **Intersection** of **Curiosity** and **Adult Learning**

Apply Learner-Centered **strategies** to spark **Curiosity**

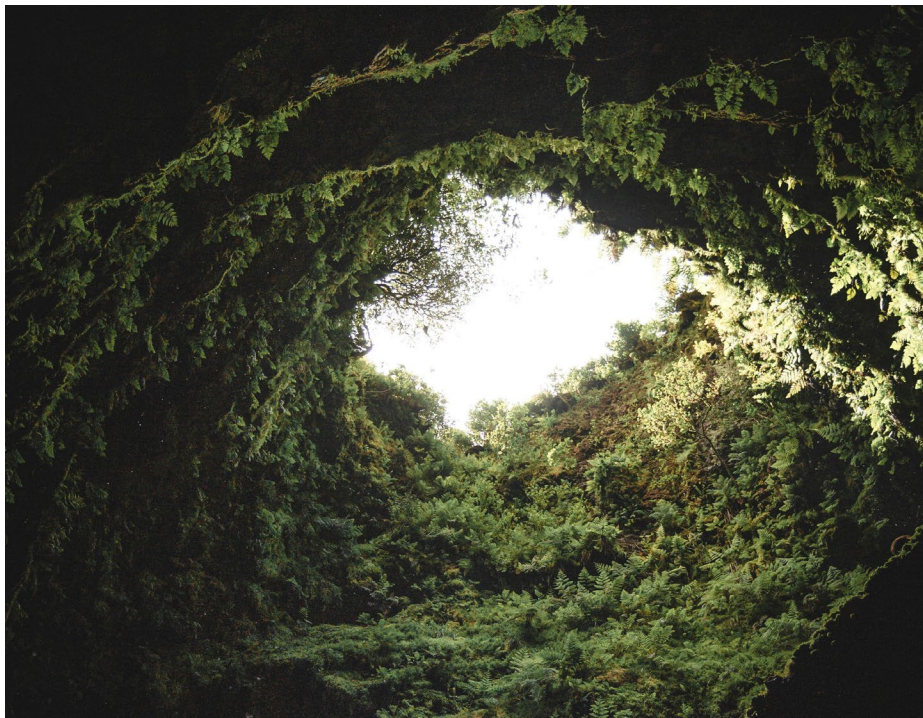




Defining Curiosity

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Activity: Rabbit Hole Poll



What (academic) rabbit hole inspired you to learn more about something?

Rabbit Hole: Becoming **deeply engrossed** or involved in something, to the point of **losing track of time or focus**, that leads to a lengthy **exploration or investigation**.

Activity: Rabbit Hole Discussion



Consider the academic rabbit hole you explored. What 1-2 words would you use to describe that experience?

Define: Curiosity

Merriam-Webster

Interest leading to inquiry.

Britannica

The desire to learn or know more about something or someone.

Curiosity is the desire for knowledge and sensory experiences that **sparks** exploration and investigation.



Discussing the Intersection of Curiosity and Adult Learning

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(THEY SAY) What role does curiosity play in adult learning?

Enhanced
Engagement
and Motivation

Deeper
Understanding
and Retention

Improved
Memory
Encoding and
Consolidation

Lifelong
Learning and
Growth

(I SAY) What role does curiosity play in adult learning? (2 minutes)

Deeper
Understanding
and Retention

Improved
Memory
Encoding and
Consolidation



Discussion Map: They Say, I Say, You Say

They Say

I Say

You Say



Questions? 1



(THEY SAY) How is curiosity sparked in adult learners?

Encourage Active
Participation



Focus on Real-world
Applications



Foster Exploration and
Inquiry



(Battista & Ruble, 2014); (Blue, 2022); (Malamed, 2023)

Encourage Photo by Mimi Thian on Unsplash; Focus Photo by Sepehr Samavati on Unsplash; Foster Photo by Declan Sun on Unsplash

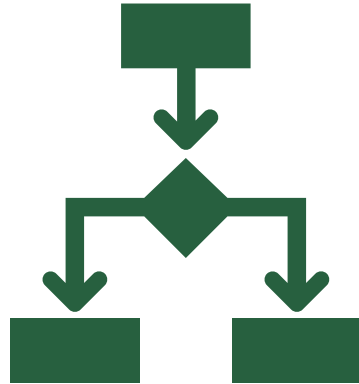
(THEY SAY) How is curiosity sparked in adult learners? *Cont.*

Curiosity Board

Simulations

Guest Speakers

Critical Reflections



(I Say) How is curiosity sparked in adult learners?

Focus on Real-world Applications



(YOU SAY) Considering how curiosity is sparked in adult learners, what strategies will you use?

Questions? 2





Conclusion

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Key Takeaways

Curiosity is the desire for knowledge and sensory experiences that **sparks** exploration and investigation.

Curiosity-fueled exploration enhances **engagement, motivation, and learning retention.**

Learner-centered strategies that foster curiosity in online and in-person courses include:

- ▶ Curiosity Boards
- ▶ Simulations
- ▶ Guest Speakers
- ▶ Critical Reflection

Dive Deeper

The Adult Learner



The Adult Learner: Teaching and Reaching the Adult Brain



Heather Schwitala
Instructional Designer
JHU BSPH CTL



Emily Haagenston
Instructional Designer
JHU BSPH CTL

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Critical Reflection



Construct Meaning through Critical Reflection

Amy Pinkerton, MA
Senior Instructional Designer
BSPH Center for Teaching and Learning



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Continuing Professional Development with CTL

Teaching
Assistantship
Training

Workshops, On-
demand Videos, and
Blog



Anonymous, 2- Minute Workshop Evaluation

2025 Workshop Evaluation Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/YmXFUqRCAd>



Another Quote from *Measures of Curiosity*

“I have no special talents. I am only **passionately curious.**”

-Einstein



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Questions and Open Discussion

