



Be Curious



Quick Tip:

To increase curiosity, NEVER EAT LUNCH ALONE. Meeting new people is critical for getting different perspectives and improving performance.

Curiosity allows us to learn, to understand, to change and to improve.

Curiosity probably doesn't require much definition. It is a mindset. A personal interest to understand more each day about the world and the people around us. Exercising curiosity requires us to listen and learn from others, to get different perspectives, and to understand different ways of thinking and doing.

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day.” —Old Man's Advice to Youth: 'Never Lose a Holy Curiosity. LIFE Magazine (2 May 1955) — Albert Einstein

Why be curious?

Each of us has our personal passions and interests. For example, my husband loves engine powered “toys” – motorcycles, snowmobiles, boats. His curiosity lies in how to improve the performance of whatever he is using at the time. He can spend hours watching videos about improving the engine performance and clutching of a motorcycle or dirt bike. And then spend more time watching videos about how people ride dirt bikes in different terrain. Then he experiments with his own dirt bike. Learning, changing and improving the performance of his motorcycle and his riding ability.

There are opportunities to be curious in areas that you are interested in and ways to expand your curiosity about the world in general. Its valuable to do both!

What is the value for leaders?

Listening to other people, getting different perspectives, understanding different ways of thinking and doing, are critical for improving your personal and leadership success. This is frankly the purpose of my blog – to bring you different topics and insights in areas like design thinking or story telling or governance or change leadership. Sharing different topics that I'm curious about and hopefully satisfy some of your curiosity too.

Through curiosity you create insights that can be recalled when you are faced with a challenge. Although you have never faced a specific situation before, something that you have read or watched may be brought to mind to help you react more effectively. For example: although you may have never experienced a certain type of terrain or obstacle when riding a bike, the memory from a video about how someone else dealt with it can be recalled and used.

“There is no better catalyst to success than curiosity.” — Michael Dell

Ways to explore and be curious

Never eat lunch alone. I love this concept and although co-workers don't eat lunch together much today, it's important to regularly meet other people for a

coffee, lunch or a networking event. Meeting new people and getting new points of view are critical to increase curiosity (and grow your network).

Explore something new every day. When a topic piques your interest, find something to read or watch right away. You don't need to read a 200-page book about everything. Maybe your curiosity is satisfied with a blog or short video, perhaps an article, or maybe you do want to read more. Satisfy your curiosity and then move on.

Ask questions. You can do this all the time. When you think you know everything that you need to know about a situation, STOP, and ask a question. It doesn't need to be super insightful or complex. Just ask simple questions and you will be surprised what you learn.

How can leaders encourage curiosity?

Often employees don't want to take the risk of standing out in a crowd. As a leader, you can encourage employees to exercise curiosity, ask questions and propose new ideas that set them apart from others. Try activities like stand-up brainstorming. Pursue curiosity for yourself and encourage your team members to do the same to constantly improve personal and team performance. Be more curious!

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Additional Resources:

Read practical ways to apply curiosity and ask questions to achieve a **Bold Business Transformation**.

Facts about curiosity at work collected by Merck KGaA Darmstadt, Germany Copyright © 2015

- Almost 9 out of 10 workers acknowledge that it's the curious person that will most likely bring ideas to life at work.
- While 61% say curious workers are more likely to get promoted, only 22% of workers describe themselves as curious.
- 2/3 of all workers report that they face barriers to asking more questions at work.

Watch this **video** from Miles Protter's on how to encourage your team to be curious and creative.

Talk to Me!

What are you curious about? I'm looking for interesting topics for my blog.

Are you interested in discussions about Power Skills?

Reply to Annette@LeazerConsulting.com



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About Annette

Annette is a business transformation coach focused on supporting better leaders, more effective operations and greater business value. Both vision and execution are key to transform work. She guides leaders to develop transformation vision and strategy, structure implementation roadmaps, and mentor teams to be successful. Her blog and newsletter share transformation tips, resources, and best practices.



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