Intellectual Curiosity encourages innovators to acquire new knowledge, challenge beliefs and knowledge constructs, and seek explanations—even when the applications of that new learning is not immediately apparent. This requires being open to new experiences and new ways of thinking that may lead to alternative ideas and solutions. Innovators focus on exploration and discovery and show a passion for inquiry with a seemingly endless list of questions. An intellectually curious person asks disruptive questions that peel back layers of complexity to explore multi-faceted nature of a problem.

Cultivating Intellectual Curiosity

Engage in intellectual curiosity by fueling exploration and discovery. Remain curious by continually questioning your assumptions and avoiding identifying solutions too quickly. One method to consider is the process of “questionstorming,” as proposed by Dyer and Christensen,1 to transform challenges into actionable inquiry:

1. Generate problem statement(s) that reflects truths (i.e. the beliefs and knowledge constructs) you assume to be foundational to the problem being explored.
2. Formulate problem statement(s) into questions. Explore the problem with both fundamental and disruptive questions, listing as many questions as needed to fully examine the breadth and depth of the problem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Aims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental</td>
<td>“What is...?”</td>
<td>To explore the way things are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“What caused...?”</td>
<td>To gain insights into why things are the way they are</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disruptive</td>
<td>“Why...?” or “Why not...?”</td>
<td>To challenge assumptions and established beliefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“What if...?”</td>
<td>To generate new angles of inquiry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Prioritize the list of possible questions and decide what is important to explore now and what is out of scope. Consider a question-centered journal to record questions that are important for future phases.

Assessing Your Intellectual Curiosity Competency

Intellectual curiosity is nuanced and complex, yet is still a skill that can be learned, refined, and achieved. As you explore your intellectual curiosity, consider the degree to which you have:

• acquired new knowledge and gain insights into why things are the way they are;
• challenged your assumptions and established beliefs to generate new perspectives; and/or
• sought explanations that deepen your understanding.

For More Information