

## I-2: Convince students that they want academic success (“I Want”)

### Foster Intellectual Curiosity & Excitement for Your Subject

The ultimate culture of achievement is one in which students are motivated to learn for learning’s sake. To build this intrinsic motivation, work to explicitly encourage students’ natural passion for learning.

Strategies to Foster Intellectual Curiosity	Explanation
<p><b>Encourage student curiosity</b></p>	<p>If a student shows a natural interest in a topic, seize it (by assigning him/her differentiated assignments on that topic, by inviting that student to share his/her knowledge of the topic, etc.).</p> <p>If a student consistently fails to show any curiosity about anything, probe deeper to determine what interests the students (everyone is interested in <i>something</i>).</p> <p>Find academic connections to topics that naturally appeal to kids or adolescents (especially those related to pop culture—always a hit).</p>
<p><b>Share your general passions with your students</b></p>	<p>Students need to learn how endlessly fascinating the world is—do not assume they will discover this on their own. Model the ways in which intellectually curious people satisfy their quest for knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If you read <i>The New York Times</i>, spend three minutes at the start of class sharing the “Quote of the Day” or something interesting you read that morning.</li> <li>▪ If you like classical music, play it in your classroom.</li> <li>▪ If you see a live event (speeches, theater, debates, etc.) tell students about it.</li> <li>▪ If you are an architecture buff, feature a building of the week or month.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Share your subject-specific passions with your students</b></p>	<p>Model intellectual curiosity for your students by sharing your personal passion for the material you teach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What led to your interest in this subject?</li> <li>▪ Do you subscribe to specialty magazines because you enjoy learning about your subject?</li> <li>▪ Do you take special courses to enhance your expertise?</li> <li>▪ Do you aspire to further academic degrees? What will it take for you to pursue these?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discuss current events</b></p>	<p>If students only learn about historical events, they will get the impression that all the interesting events have already occurred.</p> <p>Young people will be inherently interested in the present, and we happen to live in fascinating times. Have explicit discussions with your students that help them understand that current events are history in the making.</p>