

Biology Seminar

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Fostering intrinsic motivation through creativity, curiosity, and connection

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In the era of standardized testing, it is all too easy to lose the curiosity and love of learning that drove us as young learners, and switch to an extrinsic motivation mindset, learning just enough to get the desired grade. I hypothesize that by designing assignments and modules which value creativity and curiosity, and have the right balance of challenge, autonomy, purpose,

and community building, we can help our students rekindle their intrinsic motivation and love of science and guide them into becoming lifelong learners. Further, by emphasizing the connections between seemingly disparate topics and focusing on depth of understanding vs. rote memorization, we can encourage the kind of deep learning that will last beyond each quarter and forge scientific minds.