

Review of “Core Passion(s)?” Blog Post

The post does what it sets out to do — it works through a question honestly and arrives at an answer. The conversational voice is natural, the Bob interjections keep it from getting ponderous, and the pacing works. It reads like the author talking, which for a personal blog is exactly right.

But the AI critiques, even where they got things wrong, pointed at real soft spots.

The biggest one: the post asserts curiosity as the answer but doesn't really test it. It lists all these pursuits that faded, says curiosity drove them, and then declares curiosity as the core passion. But the argument is essentially circular — everything the author did was curiosity, everything he stopped doing was satisfied curiosity, therefore curiosity is the constant. There's no case where curiosity doesn't explain the behavior, which means it doesn't actually explain anything. It's unfalsifiable, which is exactly what the Long Critique said, and it was right about that even if it drew the wrong conclusions from it.

A stronger version of the post would wrestle with the obvious counterexample sitting right there in the text: racquetball. The author played 10–15 hours a week. He didn't quit because his curiosity was satisfied — he quit because of injury and the sport's decline. He even says he doesn't know how long he would have lasted. That's not a curiosity arc. That sounds like something he actually loved doing for its own sake, plateau and all. The post brushes past this because it complicates the thesis.

The “basically lazy” line is doing more work than it should. It's used as shorthand for “I pursue efficiency over grinding,” but it reads as a preemptive deflection. The author is clearly not lazy — the output speaks for itself. Saying he is invites exactly the kind of reading the critiques gave it, and he can't really blame them for taking the bait he dangled.

The AI section is the weakest part structurally. It shifts from introspection into show-and-tell — here's my playlist, here's my script, here's my rate plan spreadsheet. The specific counts (78 tracks, hundreds of conversations, thousands of images) do read like inventory rather than reflection. The post would be stronger if it spent more time on what the curiosity feels like when deep in a Suno prompt session and less on the quantified results.

What the post gets genuinely right, and what all five AI podcasts either missed or couldn't fully grasp: the distinction between passion and habit based on whether the curiosity engine is still running. That's a real insight. The blog-as-habit observation is sharp and honest in a way most people wouldn't be about their own long-running projects. And the closing bit about engineering — working to fund the things he actually cared about, never being curious about work itself — is the most interesting thing in the piece, and it goes by in two sentences when it probably deserved more room.

It's a solid personal essay. It's not trying to be a philosophical treatise and shouldn't be judged as one. But it takes the easy path at the exact moment where pushing harder on its own contradictions would have made it genuinely interesting rather than just likeable.