Pinterest: Save The Cool Ideas You Find Online!

Objectives

1. The Basics

2. Getting Started With Pinterest

3. Common Terminology

4. Understanding Your Homepage

5. Exploring Pinterest

6. Settings and Privacy

What is Pinterest?

A popular social network. Other social networks focus on personal sharing and status updates, but what makes Pinterest different is that it's about <u>collection</u>. You are finding interesting things on the Internet and you get to share this with others online.

OK, But Why Should I Use Pinterest?

At this point, you may be thinking: Do I really need to subscribe to *another* social media network? Can't I just do all of this on Facebook?

Not really. Let's explain: we use the Internet constantly. Not just for Facebook, but searching for all kinds information and trying to keep what we find/need organized can be difficult. Consider Pinterest as the free and easy way of collecting all the things you find online into your own digital photographic scrapbook.

For example, let's say you enjoy gardening. Whenever you find the outdoor DIY project you like, you could save it to a **board**. When you click on a **pin**, it will link you back to the original website, turning the board you created into a collection of visual bookmarks. You can see an example of a real board below.

As you browse Pinterest either through the Internet or their app you will find interesting information and get to create boards. This handout will explain how you can easily organize and save the information you discover.

Alright, I'm convinced. How do I create an account?

- Go to www.pinterest.com

- Register using your personal email address, phone number, or an existing Google or Facebook account.

- Select a unique password.

- Must be **13 years or older**.

*Are you using a Smartphone or Tablet?

To experience the best version of Pinterest on your phone/tablet is by downloading the app for FREE.
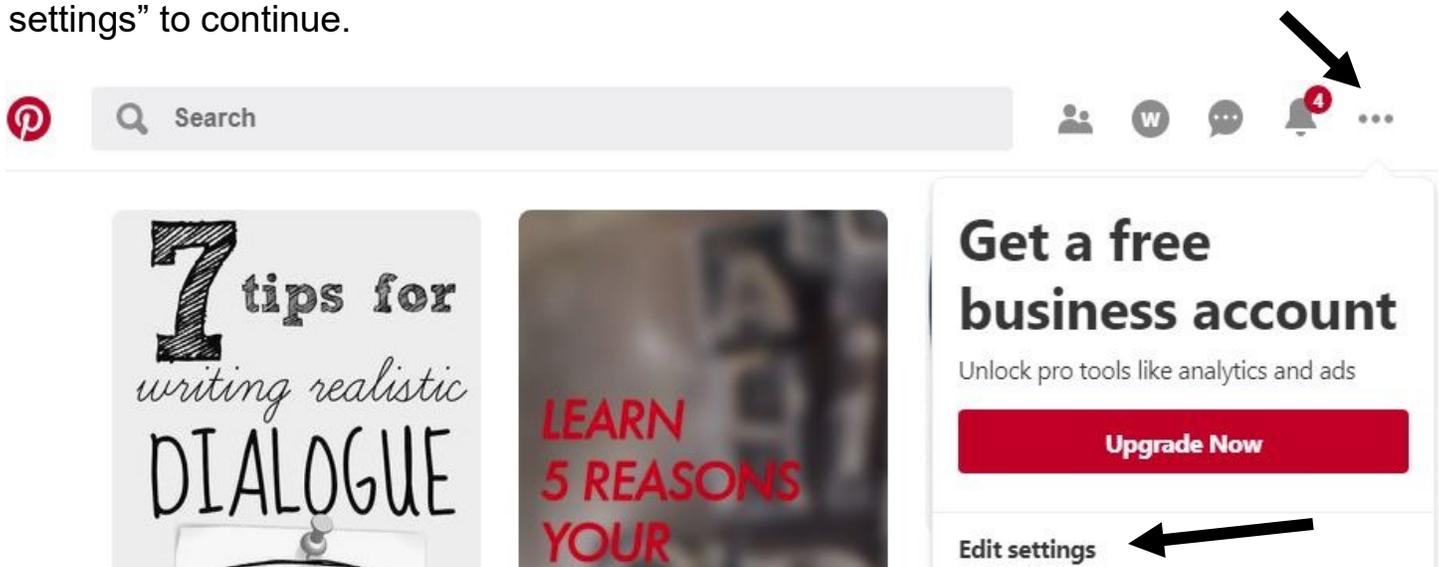

After you enter your information, you'll be given the immediate option to **follow** certain categories on Pinterest. You can scroll through these now or skip ahead and start setting up your profile. You will now be on your homepage. Click on the 3-dotted icon in the top-right corner of the screen where a drop-down menu will appear. Select "Edit settings" to continue.

This is where you can change all of your settings. Scroll down to the **Profile** section. From here you can add more information about yourself and upload a picture if you so desire.

Profile

First Name

First Name

Last Name

Last Name

Picture

Change picture

Username

www.pinterest.com/ asheborolibrary

About you

Location

Useful Pinterest Terms

New users to Pinterest might be confused hearing certain terminology. Lets review some of the most commonly used terms to give you a better understanding of Pinterest and what to expect as you get started.

Pins: These are links people save from around the web. Every pin links to the website it came from. They are visual bookmarks that connect Pinterest to another website.

Boards: These are the things you create yourself to save your pins to. You can create and title a board on any category you enjoy.
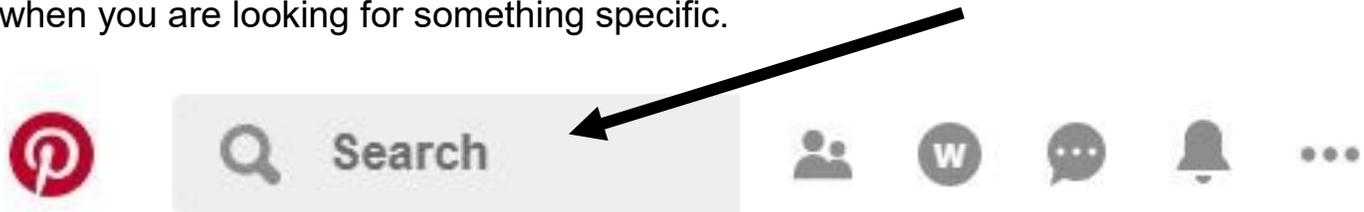
Pinners: Users on Pinterest are typically called pinners. As you browse Pinterest you may choose to follow their pins/boards. Pinners you follow will then pop-up on your homepage.

Following: These are the pinners (users) you found interesting on Pinterest and decided to follows their pins.

Source Link: This is the URL of the website where the pin comes from.

Understanding Your Homepage

When you sign into Pinterest the first thing you'll see is your homepage. You want to become familiar with the buttons at the top as well as the **search bar**, which helps when you are looking for something specific.

Click this button to return to your homepage at anytime.

This button will show who you are following as well as recommending fellow pinners/boards you may enjoy.

This buttons allows you to access your profile at any time. You can add to your boards as well as create unique pins to share with others.

This is your Messages button. It allows you to send direct messages to your fellow users.

This is where you can see recent notifications such as new/popular pins Pinterest suggests you may want to explore.
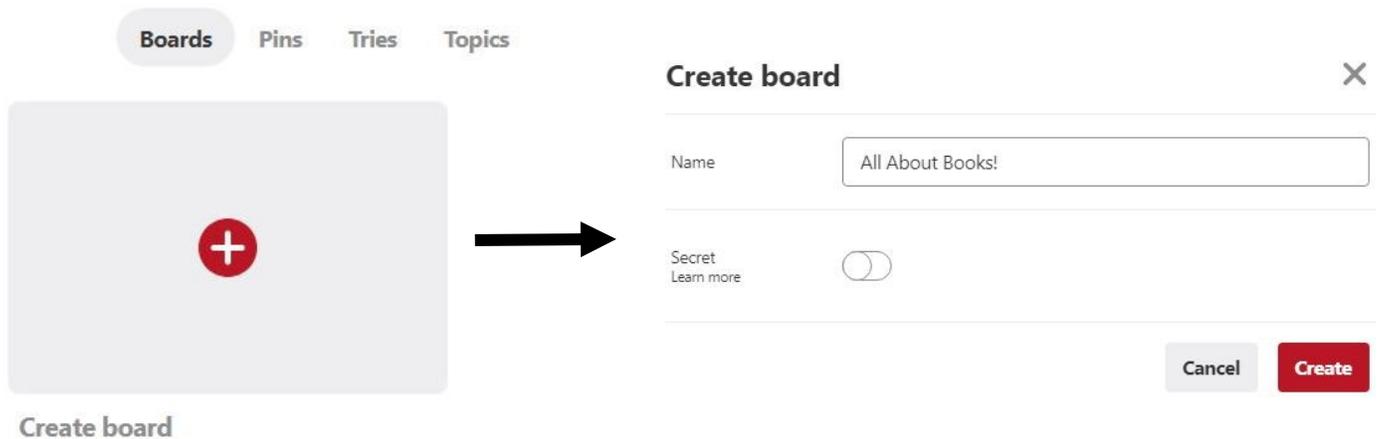
This button allows you to access your account. This is helpful if you want to edit your settings or logout.

Once you understand how to navigate Pinterest's buttons you will end up wanting to visit an original website where a pin comes from. All you have to do is click on the pin to see a larger version of it then click again on the image to send you to the original website. The website will appear in a new tab or window in your Internet browser.
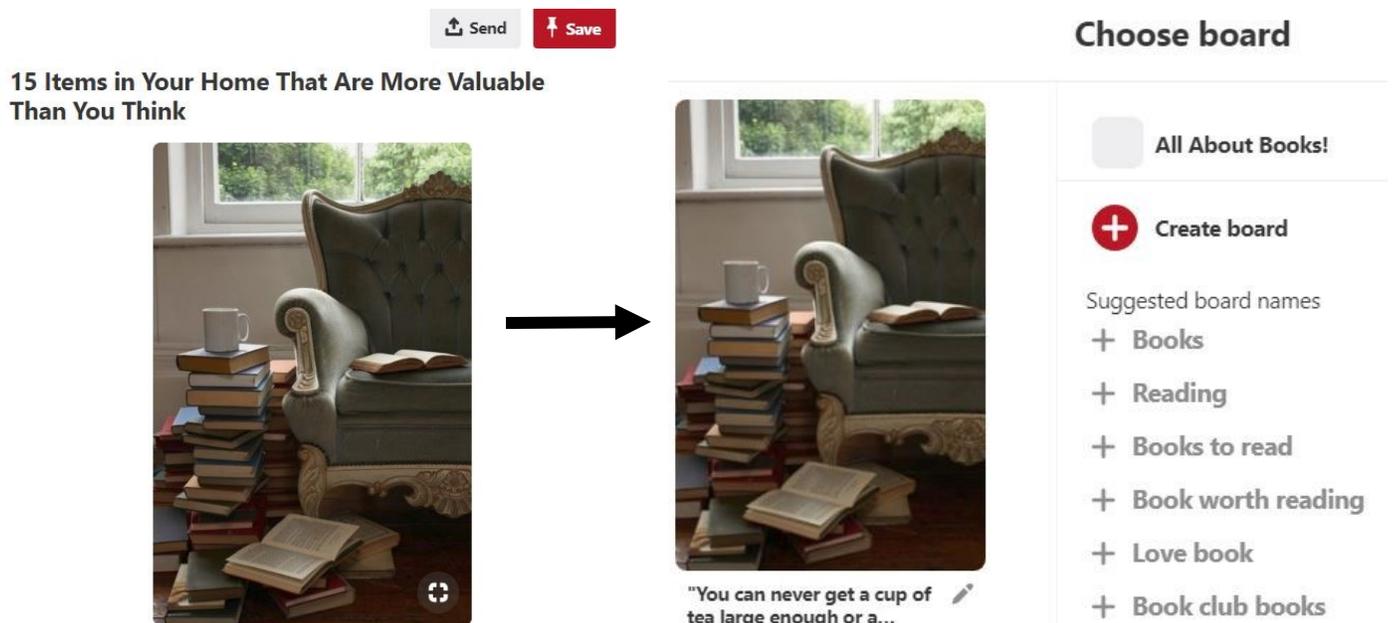
Another crucial step to learning how to use Pinterest is how to create a board.

How to Create a Board

Now it's time to learn how to make your own board. The easiest way is by going to your profile page, select Boards, then click on the red plus symbol to create a board. A window will appear asking you to enter in some necessary information then click the Create button.
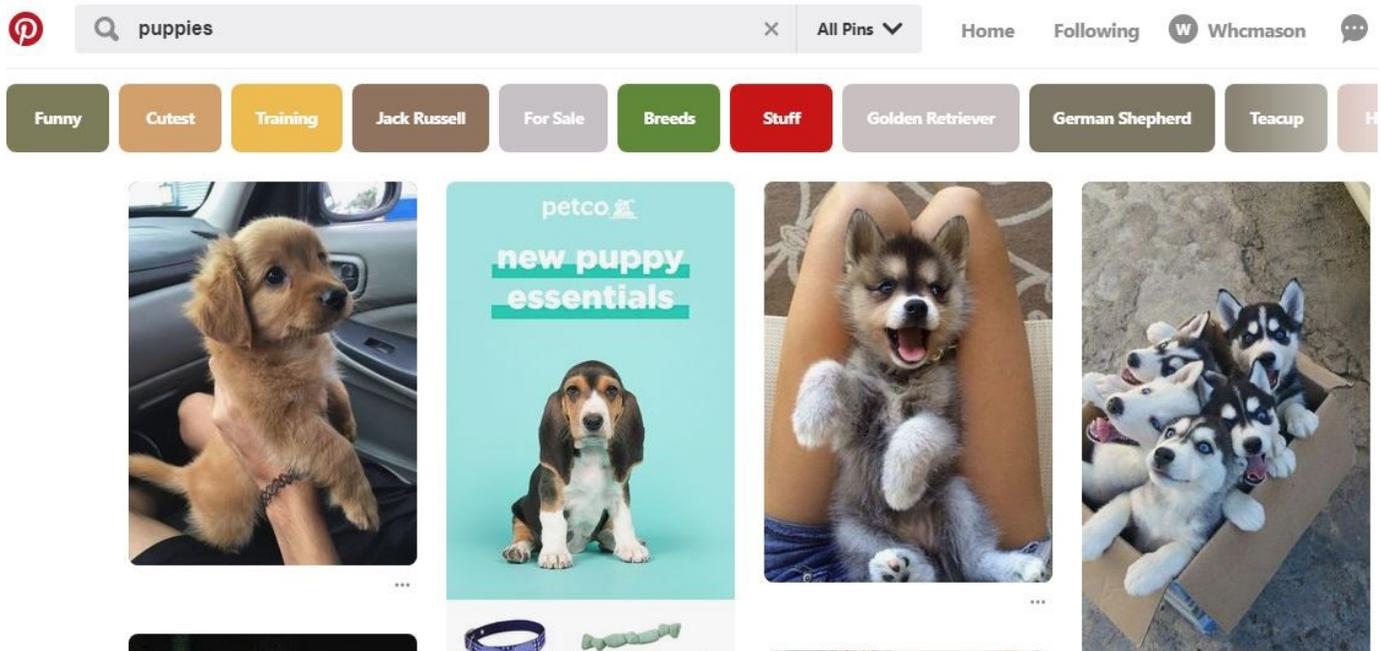

Once you've created a board it's time to start adding pins! The simplest way to add a pin is by browsing the Pinterest website for categories that interest you. Use the **search box** at the top of the page to start looking around. Follow the example below to see how easy it is!

Once you find a pin that interests you, click the red **Save** button in the top-right corner. A window will appear asking you to choose one the boards you've created to save it to or you can create a new board. That's all there is to it! Just keep hunting for pins you like and save them to your boards to keep everything organized.

Exploring Pinterest

Even if you don't plan on creating many boards of your own, you can still enjoy what people are sharing on Pinterest. Just type what you're looking for in the search box and press **Enter**. See an search example below.

The more information you add in the search box, the more detailed results you are likely to find.

Following People on Pinterest

Whenever you see a pin you like, you have the option of **following** the pinner that added it. Simply click on a pin and scroll to the bottom to find a red box marked "Follow". Now anytime this user creates a new pin it will appear on your homepage. You also have the option to only follow individual boards the user has created if you don't want to see all of a user's pins.

Settings and Privacy

There are several settings you can change on Pinterest. To access all of your account options (including your profile) select the **three-dotted button** on the top-right of the page. A scroll-down menu will appear. Choose "Edit settings" so you can update your notifications, change your password or enable extra security.

The three-dotted button is also where you can read up on Pinterest's privacy policy. Choose "See terms and privacy" to read more about what sort of data Pinterest collects from you, how they it obtain and what they do with it.

What is Private and What is Public on Pinterest

Anything you save or create on Pinterest in entirely **public** (with the exception of secret boards).
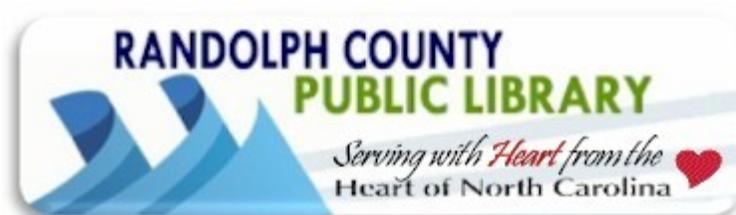
As you continue to use Pinterest you will run across the option for a **secret board**. This means if you don't want anyone to see the things you're pinning, simply toggle the **Secret** option from **No** to **Yes** whenever you create a board.

Pinterest Goes Mobile!

Mobile devices (e.g. tablets and smartphones) are becoming much more common and the fastest/easiest access to Pinterest is accomplished by downloading their free **app**. The Pinterest app allows you to do everything we've already described directly from your device's built-in browser.

Need Some Help?

If you would like assistance, call the Library reference desk at **336-318-6803** or visit us anytime at 201 Worth Street in Asheboro, NC. We also offer free one-on-one tech appointments were you can bring in your device for help or use our public computers to learn more.

Bibliography:

- GCFLearnFree.org Team (2018). Free Pinterest Tutorial. Retrieved from https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/pinterest/

- Pinterest. (2014, April 8). What's Pinterest [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QkMOdW0Kyc&t=20s

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