The Greatest, Boomers, Gen-Xers, and Millennials: Creating Intergenerational Understanding

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Generations Quiz

To which generation do I belong?

A. Greatest Generation
B. Baby Boomers
C. Gen X
D. Millennials
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Overview of Session

1. Introduction

2. Generational Perspectives

3. Understanding and Motivating Millennial Students
“In addition to coincidence of birth, a generation is also defined by common tastes, attitudes, and experience….Those times encompass a myriad of circumstances – economic, social, sociological, and, of course, demographic.”

Introduction: Cautions

- Generations overlap
- Based on mainstream America
- Danger of stereotyping
Introduction:
Why is this topic important?

They can’t problem solve! They’re just a bunch of spoiled brats.

My professor told me to email her. I wondered, “Don’t you know about IM? “

I need to get information on my research paper. I better Google it.

If I hear “We already tried that and it didn’t work” one more time, I think I’ll scream.
Generational Perspectives
|-------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

**Our Model**

|-------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

**Howe & Strauss (1991)**

|-------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

**Lancaster & Stillman (2002)**
Generational Perspectives: Breakdown of Current Population

Source: 2000 US Census Data

A. Greatest 12%
B. Boomers 31%
C. Gen X 24%
D. Millennials 33%
Generational Perspectives:
Breakdown of Current Population

- Greatest: 12%
- Millennial: 31%
- Gen X: 33%
- Boomer: 24%

Source: 2000 US Census Data
Generational Perspectives:
The Greatest Generation, Born 1922 to 1943
Generational Perspectives:
Baby Boomers, Born 1943 to 1960
Generational Perspectives:
Generation X, Born 1960-1980
Generational Perspectives:
Millennials, Born 1980-2000
Generational Perspectives

Complete the worksheet about characteristics of your assigned generation with others sitting near you.
Generational Perspectives:

- Defining Events
- Heroes
- Technology
- Core Values
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greatest Generation</th>
<th>Baby Boomers</th>
<th>Generation X</th>
<th>Millennials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outlook</strong></td>
<td>Practical</td>
<td>Optimistic</td>
<td>Skeptical</td>
<td>Hopeful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work ethic</strong></td>
<td>Dedicated</td>
<td>Driven</td>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>Determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>View of authority</strong></td>
<td>Respectful</td>
<td>Love/hate</td>
<td>Unimpressed</td>
<td>Equals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership by</strong></td>
<td>Hierarchy</td>
<td>Consensus</td>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>Pulling together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change</strong></td>
<td>Revolution</td>
<td>Managed</td>
<td>Expected</td>
<td>Fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Own work</strong></td>
<td>Do it all</td>
<td>Do with help</td>
<td>Contract</td>
<td>Cut and paste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Understanding and Motivating Millennial Students
Understanding and Motivating Millennial Students

Millennial Students: Characteristics

Self-Focused

Stressed

Protected

High Expectations

Confident

Direct & Informal

Suspicious


Millennial Students: Characteristics

Which of the characteristics do you believe is most prevalent?

A. Self-Focused
B. Confident
C. Direct & Informal
D. Protected
E. Stressed
F. High Expectations
G. Suspicious
H. Socially Oriented
Which of the characteristics do you believe is \textit{least} prevalent?

A. Self-Focused
B. Confident
C. Direct & Informal
D. Protected
E. Stressed
F. High Expectations
G. Suspicious
H. Socially Oriented
Millennial Students: Characteristics of the Millennial Learner

1. Digital Literacy
2. Experiential and Engaging
3. Interactivity and Collaboration
4. Immediacy, Connectivity, and Communications

Digital Literacy

*Image-Rich vs. Text*

1. Post course notes with relevant web links
2. Direct students to discipline specific databases
3. Course site could include notes, slides, webliography, and pertinent multimedia
4. Hybrid courses
5. Podcasting
6. Image-rich text books and readings (CDs, DVDs)

Experiential and Engaging

Construction of Knowledge

1. Simulations (online, field experience, in-class)
2. Visualizations
3. Case Analysis
4. Fieldwork
5. Blogging
6. Interactive Web Environments

Learning is a social activity

1. Collaborative Learning Online (OnCourse CL)
   - Wikis
   - Discussion Forums
   - Chat
   - Email
   - Group Space

2. Audio and Video Conferencing
3. Classroom Response Devices (clickers)
4. Group work (small teams, pairs, presentations)
5. Class Discussion
6. Role Playing

Immediacy, Connectivity, and Communications

24 x 7 x 365 World

1. Set expectations early about feedback and communication

2. Consider ways to use all three forms of communication
   - One-on-One
   - One-to-Many
   - Many-to-Many

3. Online services (gradebook, clinical scheduling, advising)

Balance

Action  Reflection
Visual  Text
Social  Individual
Process  Content
Speed  Deliberation
Peer-to-peer  Peer review

Questions to Consider

1. Do you know your students and their preferences?

2. Once you know their preferences how (and to what degree) will you adapt or accommodate?

3. What balance between the physical and virtual worlds of learning is appropriate for your students, faculty, and setting?

4. How do you engage your learners?

5. What are the best methods for incorporating technology in your teaching and learning environments?

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