Learner-Centered Instruction in A Multi-Generational Classroom

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Online Learning Consortium
2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation Name</th>
<th>Births Start</th>
<th>Births End</th>
<th>2020 Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby Boomers</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>56 - 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Generation X</strong></td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>36 - 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennials</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>26 - 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation Z</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8 - 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen Alpha</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2025</td>
<td>7 &amp; younger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Baby Boomers...
Main Characteristics

➢ Self-directed
➢ Utilize knowledge & life experiences
➢ Goal-oriented
➢ Relevancy-oriented
➢ Highlight practicality
➢ Encourage collaboration
Question for the Chat Box...

How can we help students draw out relevant past experiences?
The Challenges They May Face in the Online Classroom

- Bias
- Social/Culture Exposure
- Experience and Exposure
- Literacy
- Fear
Question for the Chat Box...

How can we make them feel confident with today’s ever-changing technology?
Teaching Students from Generation X:

- Focus on outcomes rather than techniques
- Make learning experiential
- Give students control over their own learning
- Respect students’ ability to engage in parallel thinking
- Highlight key points
- Motivate learning
- Provide Challenges
The Millennial Generation
(Generation Y)

- Research-based methods
- Relevance
- Rationale
- Relaxed
- Rapport
Understanding the Millennials

★ Most Diverse Generation
★ Strong Family Bond
★ Civic-Minded
★ Constantly Connected
★ 24/7 Communication
★ “Doing” not just “Knowing”
★ Learning by Gaming
Generation Z

- How are they different from Millennials?
- How do they use technology differently?
- How to teach Generation Z?
How can we use their online social presence to our advantage?
The Alpha Generation
(Children of the Millennials)

- Technology
- Diversity
- Life Makers
- Education
- Labor and Tax Dollars
How they are changing communications as we know it

➔ Digital footprints, even before birth.
➔ Technology in the classrooms more than ever before.
➔ Skills more specialized.
➔ Comfortable with Artificial Intelligence (AI).
➔ Telemedicine a common place.
➔ Customized shopping experiences.
In conclusion...

When teaching learner-centered instruction in a multi-generational classroom,

- Keep in mind that all students come to our class with different expectations and comfort levels
- Think about the different learning styles when developing your lesson plans.
- Take advantage of the rich discussions you can have with the wealth of life experiences of your students!
Thank you for attending!

Please contact me for further discussion, questions, or comments.

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