ENGAGING MILLENNIAL LEARNERS

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A number of teachers at present are products of the 21st century. In contrast, most learners were born in the 21st Century. Thus, our teachers need to cope with the millennial’s way of thinking and learning to bridge the gap or effort will be in vain. The millennial teaching and learning offer the variety of strategies to engage the millennial learners in the educational system of a 21st Century.

The word “millennial” refers to the group born between 1982 and 2000. The first indication that the Millennial Generation may be no different from previous generations but they have characteristics unique to the digital age. They have different names for the generation and the people who belong to it. They’re referred to as Generation Y, Nexters, Baby Boom Echo Generation, Echo Boomers, Digital Natives, Generation Next, Generation Me and, of course, Millennials. This group immersed in a world of World Wide Web (www), cellular phone or personal computers. They more likely to engage in social media like Internet-brows, iPod, texting, google, facebook and IM generation.

Here are few generic traits and preferences that are associated with the millennials from a learner’s perspective.

- They have a shorter attention span.
Deliver the lesson in a short period of time so that you will be able to hold their interest. Keep switching every ten minutes, say a short story, a short video clip, followed by a quiz and the likes. This is a microlearning which encourages exploration.

- They prefer interactive, experiential and collaborative learning.

Millennial learners more likely to study better when the lesson connect to the real life. Tie the lessons up with their culture and current events. This establishes learning outcomes.

- They are very comfortable with technology.

Mixing up the methods with the use of technology such as videos, tabs, calculators, power point presentation and other tools can hold the interest of them.

- They are multitask.

Millennials prefer a variety of active learning method. The components of their learning environment- using multimedia and collaborating with peers. They can understand the lesson when applying the concept to the real-life situation. Integrate education technology into interactions when at all possible.

- They are driven by instant gratification.

There is zero tolerance for delays. Millennials are raised in a just-in-time, service-oriented culture. They expect and demand quick turn in today’s 24x7 culture and do not easily accept the delay.

- They like informal and stimulating environments.

Millennials prefer a less formal learning environment in which they can informally interact with their teachers and peers.

- They prefer casual and friendly relationships with teachers.
Millennials are extremely relational. They are willing to learn if teachers connect with them on their interest and personal level. They expect their teachers not only knowledgeable but also readily accessible and approachable.

- They are often well rounded.

They often have closer relationships with their parents and other adults than previous generations, possibly because they were raised in a more child-centered society.

References:

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