GENERATION Y: HOW TO HANDLE THE ME ME ME GENERATION

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It is undeniable that the generation of students today is very different to those of the previous decades. A fact that is associated with the environment they grew up in. Millennials or the generation Y, are a force of nature. They aim to imprint their mark on the world, although sometime that innate need leads to negative behavior due to desperation.

Managing Millennials is not an easy goal to achieve, especially for teachers not within the age range. Older teachers are sometimes fastened to the past and have difficulty of letting up the newer culture. Their understanding of the new generation is muddled because it is very dissimilar to their own generation. That is why conflicts arise most of the times to misunderstanding. Being generality optimistic bunch, their dire want to rich their goal makes them a bit agitated and hard to stay still.

Within the classroom Millennials can be compared to children in a sugar rush, always trying to do something or nothing at all. They are very driven and opportunistic. But once the interest quiver and die down it is next to impossible to try and reengage them. This is where proper strategies come into play. Like in any other projects and tasks, proper planning and execution it the key to success.

A teacher should establish solid rules within the classroom to form authority. Millennials has a tendency to overlook adults if they deem them irrelevant and if they see the as inferior. It is best if they were become aware of who is boss, so to speak, without being a terror. It will also help to have an early briefing of sorts, make them open up on their expectations towards the subject or the school year and then clarify the probable
limits of those expectations. Once those foundations were placed comes the next big step. Formulate a teaching strategy which feeds off of their endless energy and drive. Make them interact and engage them to topics and lessons. Activities that make them think and challenge what they know are best ways to keep the Millennials interested. Millennials are born and raise side by side with technology and are naturally tech-savvy, this could be use as advantage in creating activities and projects for them, make them use those skills to hone and polish the. Although not every subject can be related to technology, it is still great if those subjects (i.e. History and Filipino) will be somehow be correlated with modern counterpart, to associate examples and analogy to the more in trend events. This way the can sympathize with the sentiments better.

Millennials are born leaders as well, therefore giving them responsibilities even how small can help with their perception of the works and activities they are doing it also encourage them to collaborate with a set of people and groups. They are social butterflies, let them fly. Create an atmosphere where they are sheltered yet at the same time they will realize what it feels like to be out in the open. The vulnerability teaches them humility. But most important of all, recognize their work. It doesn’t have to be medals and trophies for every baby steps. They just need a ground and justification that they are doing the right things and that whatever path they are leading is the correct one since with all their wonderful minds Millennials are prone to losing their sight and being lost. With all the standards that they have to keep up with due to the changing culture and the rise of social media platforms, the burden and the pressure can easily derail them.

But the baseline off all the tips there is, is that patience, fortitude, and understanding. Do not judge them because of their age. See them as a person, an individual, a particular face within a crowd. Sometimes that simple recognition can change a whole lot of things.
References:

How to Manage Millennials: 8 Ways to Do it Right

https://guthriejensen.com/blog/8-steps-to-manage-millennials