HANDLING MILLENNIAL STUDENTS

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The first indication that we had in our mind when we heard of millennial is that it is a generation which may be different from other generations such as Generation Y, Baby Boom Echo Generation, Digital Natives, Nexters and Echo Boomers.

It is also considered as the largest and most diverse generation to ever attend college. There might be a confusion nowadays on some teachers on how they will handle their millennial students. There might a stereotyping and judgment on the part of learners that lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation of some information.

Why is this so? It has been said that millennial students most likely to have lack of professional boundaries influenced by socializations, a need to have immediate feedback, a sense of entitlement, lack of critical thinking skills, unrealistic expectations, high level of parental involvement, and an expected “how to” guide to succeed in and out of the classrooms.

In order to bridge the generation gap between the teacher and the millennial students, the teacher should realize, understand and broaden his mind about the changes and feelings of the millennial learners. To cope with this scenario, here are some of the characteristics that you might encounter.

1. **Millennials are sheltered.** It is described as the focus of the most sweeping youth safety movement in American History. This generation has grown up with safety as high priority. Since youth like them are prone in different temptations and vices. Guidance and advise from both parent and teacher is highly recommended and appreciated.

2. **Millennials are confident and highly optimistic.** Since they can easily access on world wide web and got an answer in a wink of an eye. They have big dreams and expectations towards on their work that sometimes lead to unclear path of success. Their ability to
multitask to various forms of technology also enhances their confidence. Students instantly have information thru internet, instant messaging and other forms of telecommunication.

3. **Millennials feel they are special.** Parents play an important role in the lives of millennial students. It remains a major source of advice till they attend college. Receiving awards from their parents made them feel more special. This generation is comprised of students who have been taught that we are “all winners” just for participating.

4. **Millennials are team oriented.** Millennials prefer to work collaboratively on their projects and merely prefer to participate in group discussion settings. They are not fond of working alone and independent.

5. **Millennials are conventional.** They do respect cultural differences and socially accept wide spectrum of cultures. This generation comprised of peacemakers rather than that of Generation X who are considered rebels.

6. **Millennials are pressured.** Students today feel more pressured in doing something and perform certain tasks. Millennials are generation that yearns for feedback. They thrive on constant feedback and become paralyzed that often leads them not to move forward.

With this given information, todays set of teachers find it hard to handle millennial students; their learning styles and strategies is different compared to other generations students. But, if teachers like us will research, study and find out some ways to win the heart of millennial students. Surely, we will iron out conflicts and gap between them.

According to Christy Price, EdD, a psychology professor at Dalton State College, she became interested in Millennial learners when she noticed a gap between students’ expectation for success and the effort they put forth in the classroom (Price, 2009). Price then conducted a qualitative analysis of narratives provided by more than a hundred Millennial learners to get a more accurate picture of what makes them tick. “The idea here is student learning outcomes and getting students to achieve learning outcomes is a persuasive endeavor as much as we might hate that,” she said. “Students are going to be more likely to work toward achieving their learning outcomes if they have a positive rapport with us… You don’t have to be their best friend. You just have to be perceived as being on their side.”
References:

by the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, Inc.
Monaco, Michelle. The Millennial Student: A New Generation of Learners