TEACHING THE POST-MILLENNIAL GENERATION

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There is a common misconception floating around in our society regarding the millennial generation. Most high school students claim that they are millennials, however, individuals born after the year 1996 are not millennials, they are known as the Generation Z, iGen, centennials or the post-millennial generation, and they are quite different from millennials.

This means that the students our classrooms hold are all part of the post-millennial generation, and there are several things that a teacher should pay attention to when teaching such students.

First, this generation possesses a very short attention span. The generation Z is living in a world where information is updated immediately and continuously due to the internet and social media, thus, they can process information at a significantly faster rate than millennials. This programmed their brain to process information in “bits and bytes”, that is why long lectures are definitely not their cup of tea.

They wish to be involved. According to a survey, 51 percent of these students learn best by doing. They are not passive learners who merely sit in classrooms, listen to lectures and take down notes. They are students who want to be immersed in the learning process themselves, and they expect to be fully engaged despite their short attention span.

They communicate in images. This generation’s effective mode of communication is through emojis, stickers, gifs, memes, and other similar forms of media. Which is why,
the incorporation of graphics such as charts, tables, graphs, pictures, etc. and videos and other multimedia into the lesson are highly recommended.

Lastly, if the lesson is not relevant, they do not want it. These students do not have a lot of time to spare, that is why the teacher must immediately explain why the lesson is necessary and how it can be applied to their lives.

The time has changed, the students are changing and the effective methods of teaching are also changing. Delivering an education catered to the needs of the people is a duty that is placed on every single teacher in this country, therefore, it is our duty to adapt to the changes and make sure that every student receives a high-quality education.

References:


http://www.pewresearch.org/topics/millennials/