UNDERSTANDING MILLENNIAL LEARNERS

by:

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As I enter in the world of teaching, I have witnessed and observed many changes in behavior and habits among learners. A comment I’ve been hearing lately is “Children nowadays are really different than before.” How did they say so? Are you experiencing it too?

Who are the children of today and of the past? According to George Beall (THE BLOG 11/05/2016 11:59 am ET Updated Nov 06, 2017), a blogger, A “Millennial” is a person reaching young adulthood around the year 2000. Generation Z (also known as Post-Millennial, the iGeneration, Founders, Plurals, or the Homeland Generation) is the demographic cohort following the Millennial.

Here are some characteristics which Beall enumerated in his blog which we should know so that we can adjust to their needs:

1. Less Focused

Millennial can associate a certain thing in many different aspects of life. They don’t look at the situation based on the action but they observe the situation base on the things around the environment. So the teacher must learn how to get the attention of the learners by giving them surprises or something that might get their attention during the discussion.

2. Better Multi-taskers

Millennial can do many things at a time. They can do research while playing DOTA or COC while chatting with friends while listening to music while watching TV.
So teachers must know how to give them different approach and make them busy during the application of the lesson.

3. Bargains

Millennial love to search online the things they want to buy. They conduct survey, they compare things before they buy things. So the teachers must give the learners some reinforcement which may use internet because they are fond of surfing the net.

4. Less Judgmental

Millennial accept racial equality, liberated and loud. So the teachers should not compare each other instead give them activities that will teach them how and what to learn from one another.

5. Has a Higher Expectation

Millennial are born in an overrun by technology so they are used in getting things in an instant. They have a quick access through internet. When things aren’t working right it means something is wrong. So the teachers must learn how to give some twist with his daily routine in the class. Don’t repeat thrice the strategy you have used because they will surely knew it.

6. More global

Millennial were considered the first “global” generation with the development of the internet. Most of them spend their time in a café or on their smartphones and tablets. They have more chance of meeting other people and creating peers of different races. So the teachers must take advantage of this scenario to make the learners use their communication better in understanding the nature of having such advance technology.
As a teacher, there are a lot of things we can do to guide the millennial how to be more productive in the world that full of changes. These are the millennial. We cannot stop the changes but we can guide and direct them for a better and brighter future.

Since they are hooked up with technology, let’s prepare activities that will engage them to our lessons digitally but set limits in doing so. Set them to a group-based Project because they need to experience change in delivery formats to maintain interest. Their attention spans are shorter they quickly move on to other forms of learning. Their ideal learning environment involves fewer lectures and more collaboration with peers.

References:

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