



MILLENNIAL LEARNERS

Understanding
and teaching to
Millennial Learners

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OVERVIEW

- ✘ Beloit College's Mind List
- ✘ What is a Millennial
- ✘ The Stereotypical Millennial*
- ✘ Shaping the Millennials
- ✘ 7 Distinguishing Traits
- ✘ Teaching to Millennials
- ✘ Conclusion

BELOIT COLLEGE'S MIND LIST

- ✘ Each August since 1998, Beloit College in Beloit, Wis., has released the Beloit College Mindset List, providing a look at the cultural touchstones and experiences that have shaped the worldview of students entering colleges and universities in the fall.
- ✘ Behind the light humor of the Mindset List there are always some serious issues about the future of the class and their role in the future of the nation. *The digital technology that affords them privacy from their parents, robs them of their privacy amid the “big data” of the NSA and Google. How will the absence of instant on-line approval impact their performance in the classroom and work place? Will this generation continue to seek reliance on prescription medications to address challenges and adjust reality?*
- ✘ Between the medications and the social media this generation is able to do what, once upon a time, only celebrities could do: advertise their self-designed personalities. *Will that keep them from ever finding their authentic selves, or will they go through life with a “virtual” identity.*

<https://www.beloit.edu/mindset/previouslists/2018/>

MIND LIST, (THOSE BORN IN 1997)

- ✘ During their initial weeks of kindergarten: planes blasting into the World Trade Center.
- ✘ Since they binge-watch their favorite TV shows, they might like to binge-watch the video portions of their courses too.
- ✘ Meds have always been an option.
- ✘ When they see wire-rimmed glasses, they think Harry Potter, not John Lennon.

MIND LIST, CONTINUED

- ✘ “Press pound” on the phone is now translated as “hit hashtag.”
- ✘ Celebrity “selfies” are far cooler than autographs.
- ✘ The Daily Show has always been the only news program that really “gets it right.”
- ✘ Hard liquor has always been advertised on television.

MIND LIST, CONTINUED

- ✘ They never sat glued to Saturday morning cartoon shows but have been hooked on FOX's Sunday night "Animation Domination."
- ✘ The water cooler is no longer the workplace social center; it's the place to fill your water bottle.
- ✘ Pepsi has always refreshed travelers in outer space.

MIND LIST, CONTINUED

- ✘ Hong Kong has always been part of China.
- ✘ Students have always been able to dance at Baylor.
- ✘ Hello Dolly...cloning has always been a fact, not science fiction.
- ✘ Ads for prescription drugs, noting their disturbing side effects, have always flooded the airwaves.

MIND LIST, CONTINUED

- ✘ There has always been “TV” designed to be watched exclusively on the web.
- ✘ Female referees have always officiated NBA games.
- ✘ Yet another blessing of digital technology: They have never had to hide their “dirty” stuff under the bed.
- ✘ They have probably never used Netscape as their web browser.

WHAT IS A MILLENNIAL

- ✘ Having described the life experience of our incoming students, now seriously:
What is a Millennial?
- ✘ **Millennials** (also known as the **Millennial Generation** or **Generation Y**) are the demographic cohort following **Generation X**. There are no precise dates when the generation starts and ends; most researchers and commentators use birth years ranging from the early 1980s to the early 2000s.

THE STEREOTYPICAL MILLENNIAL*

- ✘ Cut to the chase:
this is what formed the Millennial:
- ✘ Internet took off in 1995,
- ✘ Google was born in 1996,
- ✘ YouTube in 2005...
- ✘ The “INTERNET” has ALWAYS existed *to them*

THE STEREOTYPICAL MILLENNIAL*

- ✘ The “INTERNET” has ALWAYS existed *to them*
- ✘ What is your outlook?
- ✘ The rules:
 - ✘ anything you encounter from age 15-30 is cool
 - ✘ anything you encounter after age 30 is evil

THE STEREOTYPICAL MILLENNIAL*

- ✘ Young students have always known the internet,
and mobile and YouTube are cool...
- ✘ but to YOU and your older students...
- ✘ every technology is evil.

SHAPING THE MILLENNIALS

- ✘ Grew up in the recession,
- ✘ where 90% of new jobs are part time,
- ✘ product of “no child left behind”
- ✘ 25% of the US population is a Millennial
- ✘ 63% of them get a BA, but only 48% of the jobs use the degree;
- ✘ Will be, on average, \$45K in debt, and 25% live at home

7 DISTINGUISHING TRAITS

- ✘ Special: the baby on board generation, they seem entitled
- ✘ Sheltered: a lack of critical thinking skills as they are a product of “no child left behind”
- ✘ Confident: but often misguided... *think helicopter parents*
- ✘ Team oriented: but don't like it... *rational helps (use peer evaluations to avoid one person doing all work or laggards)*
- ✘ Achieving; *not always realistic*
- ✘ Pressured: over programmed as children (*days full soccer league, music lessons, etc.*) *Pressure can often be self-inflicted, such as last minute work.*
- ✘ Conventional: like to get along, not risk takers (that's what cause the housing crash, market crash, etc)

FEEDBACK

- ✘ Can you add to the descriptors?
- ✘ Aside from technology, what is different?
What else comes to mind when we say
Millennial?

TEACHING TO MILLENNIALS (5 R'S)

- ✘ 1 Research
- ✘ 2 Relevance
- ✘ 3 Rational
- ✘ 4 Relaxed
- ✘ 5 Rapport

TEACHING TO MILLENNIALS (1 OF 5 R'S)

- ✘ 1 Research based methods: active learning, attention shifts, less lecture more multimedia, collaborating
- ✘ Must include legit research (not Wikipedia) and
- ✘ we must teach rules

TEACHING TO MILLENNIALS (2 OF 5 R'S)

- ✘ 2 Relevance: They like to google, not memorize,
- ✘ so they need to see how to apply information and
- ✘ you need to connect it to your content

TEACHING TO MILLENNIALS (3 OF 5 R'S)

- ✘ 3 Rational: not authoritarian like boomers,
- ✘ no automatic respect or blind following,
- ✘ ask them to create rules by asking what ruins a class for them... it will wind up just like your rules but since their idea, they will follow

TEACHING TO MILLENNIALS (4 OF 5 R'S)

- ✘ 4 Relaxed: they like to informally interact, but you can help channel this to help them to learn

TEACHING TO MILLENNIALS (5 OF 5 R'S)

- ✘ 5 Rapport: show interest, and stress how all of this will prepare them for a job

FEEDBACK

- ✘ What else have you done that seems to work?
- ✘ <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/publications/observer/2011/may-june-11/teaching-the-millennials.html>
- ✘ <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Opinion/2015/06/04/Why-College-Professors-Are-Afraid-Teach-Millennials>
- ✘ <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/tomprof/posting.php?ID=1047>

CONCLUSION

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