Gen Z Teachers

Dreams and Challenges

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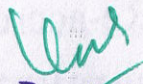This book has been published with a good faith that the material provided by the authors is original. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of material, but the publisher and the printer will not be held responsible for any inadvertent error(s).

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Gen Z: Teaching and Learning

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Introduction

Higher Education Institutions have been enrolling and graduating students of all generations for many years. No matter what age is in the classroom, educators have been employing the same techniques for the past few decades. As discussed by Schwieger and Ladwig (2018), Gen Z students are a more recent cohort. They have distinct traits and expectations. This generation includes people who were born between 1996 and 2012. They grew up with technology, just like millennials. Technology, however, is a component of Gen Z routine activities. Is it crucial for us to review our teaching methods on an annual basis as educators? Instructors need to be aware of these new generations' distinctive features as they enter the classroom. Gen Z considers itself to be dependable, considerate, compassionate, open-minded, and responsible, according to Seemiller and Grace (2016). The goal of Gen Z is to improve society.

Characteristics of Gen Z

Gen Z exhibits various trends that are particularly pertinent in the classroom (https://www.chalk.com/resources/teaching-the-next-generationlearns/Curriculum Development, Evolving Education, 2022).

Gen Z were Born into the Digital Age: Some members of Gen Z, the first generation to have grown up with smartphones, computer games, and Internet access, find it difficult to recall a time before these innovations. Instead of being a tool, technology is now merely a component of how people live their daily lives. They do not distinguish much at all between offline and online experiences.

Gen Z Interact Online: They rely on social media to connect, watch, listen, read, play, and share. Students of this age typically spend more than six hours daily on Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube, though the most popular websites change over time.

Gen Z prefer Online Communication: They do make tech-savvy pupils, and they spend much time online socializing.

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However, this generation also values in-person communication and teamwork.

Gen Z Anticipate Individualized and Convenient Experiences: There is Netflix for when they want to watch a movie. They can shop on Amazon whenever they want to. Algorithms that populate their news feeds affect a large portion of Gen Z on-demand lifestyle.

Gen Z have the Lower Attention Span: The typical Gen Z attention span is about eight seconds. In contrast, the average time for Millennials is 12 seconds. Smartphone use and the widespread use of on-demand services are two factors for the decline.

Gen Z are Pragmatic: They are likely to seek a video on YouTube to learn a new ability or clarify a new notion. They approach financial and social concerns with the same pragmatism.

Gen Z Education

The past ten years have seen many changes in education due to technological advancement and digitization. Students contribute to the educational system by leaving their mark on it through their preferred learning methods. The Gen Z are characterized by an autodidactic, independent learning style and a strong desire to choose and select what to study (Priya Thomas, 2019).

Practice Makes Perfect: Gen Z prefer to take on problems in an environment that allows them to conduct their research, make choices, and act. Not only do Gen Z believe that hands-on learning is more effective, but they also believe that it can make learning more enjoyable and interactive. It seems logical that solving issues and participating in dynamic class discussions are the best learning tools.

Online Video Education: Close the textbook because most modern students prefer to learn from online video sources like YouTube. Many students indicate that YouTube is their favourite method of studying, and Gen Z spends time there every day, three hour or more, to be exact. Additionally, it fits their thirst for tech-forward learning and on-demand information.

Social Learning: Because they desire to engage, share knowledge, co-create, and learn from others online and offline, this generation highly values collaboration. Their social networks for learning may include co-workers, friends, family, and even individuals from foreign nations. Social learning enables students to learn from one another through

participation and observation, solve problems more rapidly by combining complementary skills, and accept ideas they might not have thought of on their own.

Personalized Learning: Gen Z has a diverse range of learning preferences, despite taking more standardized tests than any other generation before. They are the most technologically advanced and diverse generation to date and are used to getting information customized to their needs in the formats that suit them. When classroom activities and instruction use a variety of forms, different levels of complexity, and alternatives for evaluation, learning can be tailored to each student's needs. Adaptive learning is an example of personalization in action. Involving students in decision-making and learning direction can help personalize the experience without unnecessarily burdening teachers.

Hybrid Learning: Whether it is how Gen Z socializes with one another or how they study, they seamlessly switch between online and in-person interaction. Hybrid learning aims to combine traditional classroom instruction with online learning methods. Hybrid learning gives students more freedom and control over their learning process. Google Classroom and other Gen Z learning platforms can simplify assignments and

improve the interaction between students and teachers. E-learning strategies also contribute to a more enjoyable and exciting learning environment.

Gen Z Classroom

Consider and include the following components in the lesson planning process to make use of Gen Z teaching and Gen Z learning tools.

Bridge Alignment: Promote learning in various disciplines, including STEM, the arts, and language. This keeps Gen Z students interested and gives them a chance to learn in the way most suited to their particular needs.

Student-informed Learning: One must provide students with the chance to participate in their development. One must provide students more freedom in accessing resources, completing assignments, receiving assessments, and consuming class materials.

Experiential Learning: Provide opportunities for hands-on, community-based learning that deals with issues from the real world. For example, authentic learning activities involve students in meaningful work that will benefit a real audience.

Technology Integration: Instead of leaving intelligent phones at the front, discover ways to include them in the lessons.

Technology can be the finest ally in maintaining a generation of tech-savvy students with shorter attention spans.

Visual Aids: Especially incorporate video, and make it concise. Please choose the most incredible YouTube videos for the classroom, be selective when choosing them, or ask the students to co-create their videos as a work or learning exercise.

Short Online Quizzes: Gen Z pupils prefer short online exams. Many classes use Blackboard to publish quizzes, which students react to in person using their smartphones.

Teams/Small Groups: According to Rothman (2018), Gen Z prefers to collaborate in smaller groups. When students collaborate in smaller groups, they can foster more creativity. Students in the writing course have created great narrative paragraphs in which they act as the main characters. When they present their finished product to their peers, one can tell how much they enjoy the activity by their enthusiasm.

Active Learning Activities: Research showed that Gen Z people have a limited attention span. One strategy is to either write a brief overview as a team or separately. One can determine what needs to be evaluated due to this activity.

Additionally, 'One Minute Papers' are an excellent resource for this.

Games: Students can share knowledge and review material very well through games. Students might get highly involved in the game and focus very hard on it. Students from Gen Z enjoy playing video games online.

Gratitude and Criticism: Students are more engaged in class when teachers are concerned about their needs and what is happening to them. Concern for their development provides them with continuous, encouraging reinforcement. Although one can edit their papers, offer suggestions about how they may improve, and urge them to work harder. Positive words may change people, and pupils need to hear this.

Teaching Techniques of Gen Z Teacher

Digital Teaching

Use Academic Software: Many technological solutions are available to facilitate work and maintain Gen Z students' interest. The software can generate anything from interactive presentations to educational games and full-service learning management systems.

Begin a Conversation: Giving lengthy lectures to Gen Z students is not the most excellent approach. They are

accustomed to multitasking and scanning for the most necessary details. To keep the students engaged, try a variety of teaching techniques.

Make Good Use of Visuals: Like in lectures, long text passages can disengage pupils. The content can be more remembered using charts, graphics, and multimedia.

Hold Virtual Office Hours: Sending an instant message will probably be more efficient for students who are used to contacting someone immediately online. Additionally, making immediate contact instead of scheduling a formal meeting is more effective for parents of younger children.

Explain: Students in Gen Z are used to updated newsfeeds and only want the most pertinent information continuously. Because of this, be sure to state a lesson's importance and practical relevance upfront.

Diverse Teaching

Explore Own Culture: It is possible to more accurately detect one's prejudices and understand the value of cultural background by understanding the social interests, aspirations, and thought patterns that shape culture.

Make an Effort to Learn about Other Cultures: Look beyond the apparent and seek to comprehend how students' cultural diversity influences how they perceive themselves and their surroundings.

Think Carefully about Language: Language and dialect are essential components of culture. By looking at how words are used, one might learn to interact with kids more meaningfully.

Use a Diverse of Books and Resource: Including multicultural literature helps increase student engagement with the subject matter and promotes intercultural understanding.

Reduce High Rates of Depression and Anxiety

Connect with Pupils: Try engaging Gen Z students one-on-one rather than employing an authoritative teaching style. Be mindful that their feelings may affect how they learn.

Employ Ways that Emphasize Positivity: This is not mean that the teacher should ignore inappropriate behaviour, but one can use methods that emphasize student empowerment. Consider verbal praise as a reward for effort and often monitor how children progress.

Provide Accommodations: Teachers might offer to assist students in constructing study strategies, extend deadlines for assignments, and split up larger jobs into smaller ones. Additionally, they could encourage students to assist one another.

Set the Stage for Success: Helping students feel successful can boost their confidence. Even though one must adhere to state requirements, one can divide the curriculum into regular dates for the benefit of the students.

Consult with the Experts: Mental health professionals working for the school can offer to counsel, refer students to additional resources, and work with families.

Take a Class: Gaining knowledge from more experienced teachers will help one to apply evidence-based research to the classroom. Some classes might even show students how to establish a private space to discuss their mental health.

Conclusion

Older generations cannot compare Gen Z with them because they are the first consumers who have lived exclusively in the digital world. They have high expectations for how they use their online time and are tech-savvy and mobile-first. Gen Z students need capable teachers to manage them. Generation Z students are on their cellphones *a lot*, and most of them use their phones for everyday activities. In this case, our students can use their cellphones to access their class textbooks or manuals online. We can also create a blog where they can read articles related to class discussions, post comments, and at the same time, practice reading and writing in English.

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Conflict Resoluteness amidst Gen Z Teachers

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Introduction

Gen Z or Centennials have been lift up on the internet and social media. Gen Z grew up with technology, the web, and social media, that typically non-moving them to be stereotypical as tech-addicted, anti-social, or 'social justice warriors.' (https://www.inside...). The implications of mounting up in an 'always on' technological environments are only now coming into focus. Recent investigations have shown striking changes in adolescence behaviours, attitudes and lifestyles both positive and concerning for those who came of age in this era. Nobody knows, whether these are lasting generational imprints or characteristics of adolescence that will become more silent over the path of their adulthood. Beginning to track this new generation over time will be of noteworthy