

Engaging Students Where They Are:
The Challenges and Successes of Integrating Technology with Diverse Student Populations
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The Generations in Our Classes

Boomers

- Born 1946 – 1964 (ages 47 – 65)
- Education – then and now
 - Sustainable employment possible with High School degree
 - Many college educated influenced by post World War II affluence and desire by depression era parents that their children have a better life
 - Enter or return to college for job retraining or career advancement
- Work Experiences and Attitudes
 - Place a high priority on work with a purpose
 - Generation affected by downsizing and outsourcing
- Communication – Preferred style
 - Personal interaction (Face-to-Face)
 - Phone calls (land lines and cell phones)
- Technology Knowledge
 - Grew up with calculators, TV, early computers
 - Range from little knowledge to tech savvy

Gen X

- Born 1965 – 1980 (ages 31 – 45)
 - As children, grew up in homes with parents affected by downsizing
 - Single parent households due to divorce
 - Forced to become independent and self-reliant – felt ignored
 - Skeptical and distrustful of authority
 - As adults may be conservative about relationships in life and work
 - As parents, spend more time with children
- Education – then and now
 - “Latch-Key Kids” due to parent(s) at work
 - Higher high school and college completion rates
 - Enter or return to college with Family/Work/Community commitments.
 - College is in addition to existing responsibilities
- Work Experiences and Attitudes
 - Less job security – result is loyalty to self and own work, not employer
 - Responsible for maintaining their education/skills to remain employable
 - Desire for fun in the work place
 - Dissatisfied with work , will look for another position
 - Balancing Family and Work a high priority
- Communication – Preferred style
 - Email
 - Twitter for social contacts
 - Cell phone
- Technology Knowledge
 - Grew up with computers
 - Comfortable with technology

Gen Y

- Born 1981 – 1995 (16 – 30)
 - Includes PSEO students
 - Helicopter parents and highly scheduled childhoods
 - Dependent on family
 - Feedback important
- Education
 - No Child Left Behind
 - College Education needed to compete in the workforce
 - Team oriented, work well in groups
 - Mentor, challenge, structure, feedback
- Work Attitudes
 - Inclusive and comfortable with diversity
 - High expectations despite lack of experience
 - Seek flexibility, believe with technology can work anywhere
- Communication – Preferred style
 - Text message with hand held media
 - Social media, Facebook, Video, Blogs
- Technology Knowledge
 - Born with technology
 - Computer and Internet use beginning as early as age five – eight years
 - Easily learn and use new technologies
 - Multi-taskers

Sources

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Who are We?

Please complete this brief survey about yourself.

1. Generation: Which generation do you represent?

_____ Boomer _____ Gen X _____ Gen Y

2. Technology Knowledge: Where are you along the continuum?

Prefer no technology ←—————→ Tech Savvy

3. Access to Internet at work and home:

Work: _____ No access _____ Dial-up _____ High-speed cable or DSL

Home: _____ No access _____ Dial-up _____ High-speed cable or DSL

4. Communication Preferences and uses: Check all that apply to you.

_____ Face-to-Face _____ Written (letter, note, postal mail)
_____ Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____ Text Messages
_____ Email _____ Facebook
_____ Video _____ Other _____

5. Colleges & Universities where we teach:

_____ Urban _____ Suburban _____ Rural

6. Types of classes we teach: Check all that apply to you.

_____ Face-to-Face with no technology
_____ Face-to-face with supplemental technology (computer /internet use for assignments)
_____ Hybrid – Face-to-Face plus online (i.e. Blackboard)
_____ Online – course taught totally online

Think About the Students in Your Classes

Discuss with Others

What **Generations** do your students represent?

Do your students have **Access to Technology**? What type(s)

What are the **Technology Knowledge** preferences of your students?