

ISSUE BRIEF

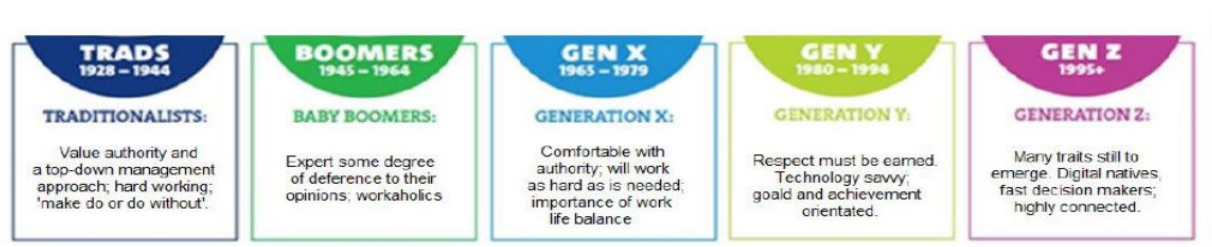
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TEACHING GENERATION Z

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (ISSUE)

There is an issue of technology to properly teach the student of Generation Z at a teenage and collegiate level. The problem is learning methods of the students of Generation Z and how instructors/educators adapt in their teaching methods. Generation Z student see tech and creativity as important and intersecting aspects of their identities. Technology provides more tools and inspiration for Generation Z creativity.¹

BACKGROUND

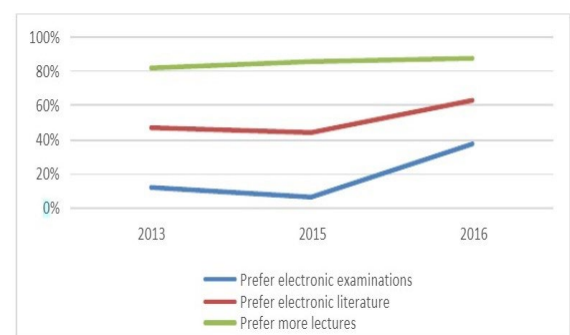


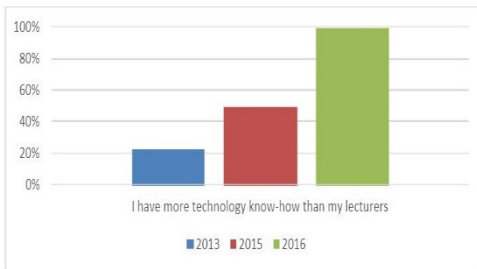
Generation Z is the new generation following the Millennials (also known as Generation Y). Generation Z is born from 1997 to 2012.² This generation was raised on the internet and social media, often called the iGeneration for being so tech-savvy.

According to a survey conducted by Adobe Education (2016), "93% of students consider technology in the classroom essential to nurture their creativity and prepare them for their future career." The brains of Gen Z have developed the visual ability portion, making visual learning more effective, but also making it harder to focus and analyze complex information.³

According to a survey conducted with the help of Dr. William W. Rogge and author McCoy

(2020), "Respondents averaged 19.4% of class time using a digital device for non-class purposes. The average respondent used a digital device 9.06 times during a typical school day in the 2019 survey for non-class purposes. On a weighted average, survey respondents indicated they would turn-off all non-class digital distractions if their instructor gave them 7.8% extra credit on their final class grade."



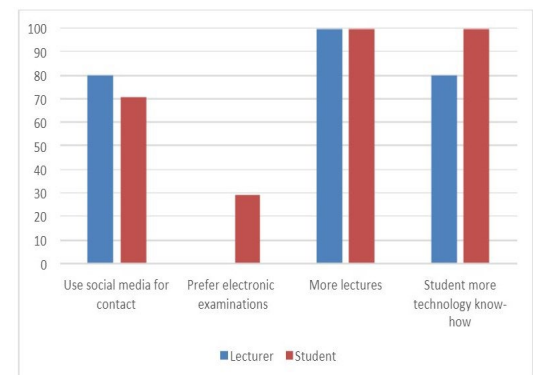


There is a rise of a new generation that is "location-aware" and speaks a "technological-language". This has a great impact on the teaching-learning environment within the current university structures, as students (the new Generation Z learners) are more equipped with technology, than typical Generation X (lecturers), which increase complexity of education processes involving instruction, guidance, and supervision.⁴

RECOMMENDATIONS

To help Generation Z students prepare, the classroom or environment should be organized to satisfy the aspects that the students and educators/instructors consider the most relevant to reach an advanced educational system.

- ⌘ Having more opportunities for hands-on learning
- ⌘ Letting students follow their curiosities
- ⌘ Using more technology in the classroom
- ⌘ Having more of a focus on creativity in the classroom⁵
- ⌘ Create a blog where students can read articles related to class discussions, post comments, and at the same time, practice reading and writing in English.
- ⌘ Since Gen Z is very visual and interested in using YouTube for learning, share links from YouTube to assist in their learning.
- ⌘ Short online quizzes⁶



Student view	Lecturers view	Possible bridge
Know they have more technology know-how than their lecturers	Realize that they teach a student with more technology know-how	Instructors teaching Generation Z must be prepared to teach using software, hardware, and digital, technological and social media. Creative classroom setups will need to form part of the education process.
Online connected throughout the day resulting in quick information	Include some technology in teaching, but it is limited.	Explore the Internet as a communication tool in a group decision-making process and seek to not work in isolation, but enhancing the interconnectedness of the group.
Requesting more technology-usage as part of their modules	They realize that social media can benefit teaching-learning strategies, but don't have the knowledge to implement such initiatives	Research social networks and their impact on the traditional approach to urban planning as possible integration method. Explore virtual place-making processes and creative classroom setups.
Growing interest in online examinations, online study material	Believe traditional teaching methods (such as written examinations and formal contact sessions) are best strategies.	Explore applications and supporting software to implement a gradual change. Replace PowerPoints with open discussions, lively debate and structured group work.
Prefer more contact sessions	Prefer more (traditional) contact sessions	Move away from traditional teaching approaches to more learner-based learning. Include visual methods and creative teaching sessions (indoors and outdoors).
Born into the internet-era and does not understand a different view	They are not fully aware of the characteristics, challenges and preferences of the Generation Z student but are willing to learn	Some lecturers will need professional development support to help them move from a traditional to a transformational learning model

Source: Based on Stem (2014); Rohman (2016); Street (2013); Hanzl (2007)

CONCLUSION

Furthermore, understanding Gen Z will help higher education instructors rethink their teaching methods. Becoming more conscious of Gen Z students' learning needs will be beneficial in the end. Adapting to the traits of Gen Z will bring extra consideration to making sure students are ready to navigate a technology-fueled work environment. Understanding that each new generation of students will bring changes to both teaching and learning, but one thing that won't change is the trend toward a more digital world.

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¹ See Adobe Education (2016)

² See Dimock (2019)

³ See Rothman (2016)

⁴ Cilliers (2017)

⁵ See Acer (2017)

⁶ See Miranda (2020)

