Brain-Based Learning & Teaching Across the Generations

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Brain-Based Learning

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Winning Smile
Handshake
Introduce yourself (if needed)
Name one or more of these 4 that you have noticed in your traditional-aged students:
  1) cursory reading
  2) hurried and distracted thinking
  3) superficial learning
  4) decreased empathy & “people skills”
Eye Contact
Exposure to the digital world is rewiring the human brain and changing how we process information.
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Wall Street Gerbil

It's the news!

Momma was a Frankenstein!
Exposure to the digital world is rewiring the human brain and changing how we process information.

We can improve thinking skills simply by moving.
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Is the digital boom spelling cerebral doom?
Forming a Continuum
And in this corner...

1) cursory reading
2) hurried and distracted thinking
3) superficial learning
4) decreased empathy & “people skills”
Exposure to the digital world is rewiring the human brain and changing how we process information.

We can improve thinking skills simply by moving.

The brain checks out after 20 minutes.
The brain checks out after 10 minutes.
Storytelling
BRAIN BREAKS
What did you learn?

What was confusing?

What is important to you?

1 minute paper
We learn and remember best through pictures, not written or spoken words.
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Multitasking is a myth—brains can focus on just one thing at a time.
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TRUE

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Multitasking is a myth—brains can focus on just one thing at a time.

FALSE

Emotional arousal disrupts learning.
Emotional arousal helps the brain learn.
Attention Follows Emotion

Art and Music
The part of the brain that helps us inhibit improper behaviors and is necessary for good judgment is not fully developed in some people until they are 12 years old, 18 years old, or 30 years old.
IQ is fixed.
IQ is not fixed but can be increased.
Motivation = Expectancy x Value
Avoiding Velcro Learning
Ask the
RIGHT QUESTIONS
Teaching Across the Generations

Ms. Pamela Barnes, M. Ed.
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Let’s Play a Game!!
The Generation Gap Game

• Who is the ideal figure of motherhood as portrayed on television?

A. Donna Reed
B. Mrs. Brady
C. Roseanne
D. Sharon Osbourne
The scariest moment in all of film history was __________?

A. When the Blob chased Steve McQueen?
B. When the alien erupted out of Kane?
C. When Freddie refused to die?
D. When Samara comes crawling out of the television set?
Who was/is the captain on Star Trek?

A. What’s Star Trek?
B. Captain Kirk
C. Captain Picard
D. Captain Archer
When you were 20 years old, what was the quickest way to get a written message across the country?

A. Pony Express
B. Federal Express
C. Email
D. Instant Messaging
How would you complete this sentence? Computers are______

A. the size of a refrigerator.
B. a necessary evil.
C. the best way to shop.
D. my main link to the outside world.
An instructor informs her class that the day will run 30 minutes beyond the scheduled completion time. Your response is:

A. I’ll call my wife to hold dinner.
B. I guess I can be late to my son’s game.
C. Just email me the hot points
D. Y.H.G.T.B.K. (You have got to be kidding)
The Generations

• If you identified mostly with the “A” answers, you are a *Traditionalist (or Silent)*.
• Mostly B- you are a *Baby Boomer*.
• Mostly C- You are a *Generation X*
• Mostly D- You are a *Millennial*
Teaching Across The Generations

• Silent- Ages 69 & up
• Boomers- Ages 49-68
• Gen X- Ages 33-48
• Millennial- Ages 18-32
Tips to Improve Interaction among the Generations

• Fundamental Value Differences
• Dimensions of Diversity
• Good teaching practices are good regardless of age group
• Certain techniques work better for learners of certain ages
Recent Trends in Education

• More learner center style of instruction
• More collaborative, experienced-based forms of teaching and learning
This is the first time in history there have been four generations in school and in the workforce!
Silent Generation or Traditionalists

- Born in the middle of the Great Depression
- Ready to learn to skills to avoid boredom
- Learning by choice
- Overprotected in Childhood
- NOT self-destructive as youth
- Not defined as great or original thinkers
Notables of Silent Generation

- Marilyn Monroe
- Jerry Lewis
- Elvis Presley
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
Baby Boomers

• Constantly at the forefront of everyone
• Yuppies
• Older members are close to retirement
• Sense of importance
• Focused on mind, body, and soul.
• Achievement oriented and internally focused in the classroom.
Baby Boomers

• Extremely grade focused
• Tend to have great anxiety about returning to school
• Individualist natures
Notable Baby Boomers

- Oliver North
- Janis Joplin
- Oprah Winfrey
- Steven Jobs
- David Letterman
Generation X

• Came of age when it was not fashionable or desirable to be a child.
• Sometimes referred to as “Lost Generation”
• Many are children of divorce
• Latchkey kids
• Many “raised” by television
• Criticized for being lazy and dumb
Generation X

• First generation to be less educated than parents
• Rejected the notion that college was required
• Have a non-traditional orientation to time (as long as the job gets done…it’s not important when or where)
Notable Gen Xers

- Eddie Murphy
- Michael Jordan
- Mike Tyson
- Roger Clemens
Millennial

• Students just entering our classrooms today
• Mostly children of “Boomers”
• More universally loved by their parents than any other generation
• Physically and medically more well-cared for
• Have had more buying power as children
Millennial

• Have experienced more active teaching methods
• Achievement oriented, heavily pressured to excel academically
• Often plagiarize, tend to think anything online is available for use without citing
Notable Millennials

• Hilary Duff
• Tiger Woods
• Kobe Bryant
• Jessica McClure
Like it or not, the era in which you grew up in has helped to shape your expectations in the classroom!
Classroom Implications that will work for Everyone!!

• Ask for professional experiences from both Boomer and Xers
• Change activities often! (Attention span of typical adult is 10 minutes)
• Tap into the tech savvy of Xers and Millennials- Will drag Boomers in with them
• Assign group roles for the first team projects
• Work to create a team environment
• Enforce accountability for groups
• Require some form of participation each class
• Encourage discussion between groups
Effective Communication with Boomers

• Body language is important. Boomers are a “show me” generation
• Speak openly, but avoid controlling language
• Answer questions completely, expect to be pressed for details
• Present options to demonstrate flexibility
Effective Communication with Gen X

• Use email as a primary communication tool
• Speak in short sound bites to maintain attention
• Ask for feedback
• Provide feedback
• Use an informal communication style
Effective Communication with Millennials

• Use action words and challenge them!
• They will be resentful if you talk down to them.
• Use email to communicate often.
• Use humor and create a fun learning environment.
• Encourage them to take risks.
What Will Work Against You?

• Trying to appeal to all generations in the same assignment.
• Clashes will come between Boomers and Xers & between Xers and Millennials
• Not allowing enough time for groups to become comfortable with one another
• Not asking students to stretch beyond their comfort zone.
The Future of Training

“Rather than building a structure around the provider, the new (training) paradigm builds a support system around the learner. It’s a shift in focus...That’s sufficient to turn the entire learning and training fields upside down and to reset everything we’ve done in the past to zero.”  Jonathon Levy
• Make generationally diverse classrooms work by changing the demographics of the learning environment to promote morale and productivity!!
References
