If you’ve served in higher education for any length of time, you recognize we are now in new territory. Tuition costs, student attitudes, college transfers, classroom pedagogy and the lack of career readiness in graduates forces us to think about new ideas we can leverage to both connect with and instruct first year students.

**Two Kinds of People in Education Today**

1. __________________________  2. __________________________

**A Generation of Firsts**

Today’s Students Are Part of the First Generation That:

- Doesn’t need _____________ to get information.
- Can _____________ their every thought or emotion.
- Enjoys _____________ stimuli at their fingertips 24/7.
- Is in social _____________ at all times yet often in isolation.
- Will learn more from a portable _____________ than a classroom.
- Adults have actually _____________ to be narcissistic.
- Uses a _____________ instead of a wristwatch, camera, wall calendar, alarm clock or board game.

**Societal Shifts We Must Prepare For**

Anthropologist Margaret Mead Summarizes the Societal Shifts We’ve Experienced:

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

How does this inform our educational methods with first year students?
Who is Generation Z?

The youngest population being measured today are the ones born after the Millennial Generation. Most call them Gen Z and they’ve grown up during the 21st century. Market research from Sparks and Honey and Universum provides this snapshot.

**Crash Course on Generation Z**

- They make up a smaller population than Gen. Y and are more about “coping with reality” than “virtual reality.”
- Their movies: “Hunger Games” and “Divergent” are where youth are slaughtered and kids no longer feel central.
- They multi-task on five screens rather than two. They tend to experience “FOMO” (Fear of Missing Out). 11% are diagnosed with ADHD.
- They plan to be educated and start working earlier, but they will be “school hackers” not necessarily at a four-year college.
- Globally, Generation Z has a keener interest in leadership than the previous three generations of youth, according to a Universum survey.

**The Shifts Generation Brings**

As we move from Millennials to Generation Z, the following changes are in the air:

1. ___________ is morphing into _____________.
2. ___________ content is morphing into ____________ content.
3. ___________ an education is morphing into _____________ one.
4. ___________ is morphing into _____________.
5. ___________ posts are morphing into ____________ ones.
6. ___________ messages are morphing into ____________ messages.

**Becoming an EPIC Educator**

We’re leading an EPIC generation of students. This should inform our work. They are:

E - ___________________________________________________________________
P - ___________________________________________________________________
I - ___________________________________________________________________
C - ___________________________________________________________________

How EPIC are you as a communicator?
Metacognition:
The Secret to Engaging These EPIC First Year Students

Metacognition is the awareness and understanding of one’s own thought processes. It is essentially thinking about thinking. I believe metacognition is the secret and driving motivation behind all genuine learning. The National Academy of Sciences defines it as the “key to effective learning.”

Traditional Pedagogy

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

Transformational Pedagogy

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

Leveraging metacognition with your students enables you to become EPIC.

Societal Shifts We Must Prepare For

Conclusions I’ve drawn After Teaching Students
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Insights to Leverage Metacognition with First Year Students
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Interested in resources to become EPIC? Check out Habitudes

Help Freshmen Master the Art of Navigating Transitions

Master the Transition

Talk About Real Life

Make Wise Decisions

View Free Sample at: GrowingLeaders.com/FYE

© 2018 Growing Leaders