

## **Adapting Teaching Strategies for the New iGeneration: Translating Generational Research for the Newest Generation**

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### **Educational Considerations for iGeneration**

- Promote information literacy and provide strict guidelines for online searching
- Point out more reliable sources and model how to analyze and synthesize the content
- Segment assignments and set hard deadlines to hold them accountable
- Avoid the binge mentality that can cause them to consume time and lose focus
- Be purposeful in assigning group tasks. For example, collaborating online before meeting in person might help students prepare for strong group participation.
- Manage student study time outside of class by providing guidelines and timelines to help student manage leisure time wisely. [iGen have more, not less, leisure time than Gen X]
- Provide iGen students with feedback regularly; having been raised in an instant-reaction world they will desire this from educators.
- Involve iGen students. Ask them to turn off devices and engage with you in something that does not involve screens.
- Recognize that with iGen you are not only helping them perform academically, but they might also need help with life skills.
- Make material relevant [iGen do not like learning for the sake of learning... they want to know why]
- Design PowerPoint slides where one topic lasts 1-3 minutes before a new topic starts or include a break slide or show a video that is 1-3 minutes long. [Digital and mobile technology is not just part of their world – it IS their world. iGEN students are digital natives and accustomed to “snack-size” education – they are the YouTube tutorial generation.]
- Apply the fact that iGen is more excited about the day-to-day experience than about a 5-year goal. [iGen prefer small hurdles more than long-term success.]
- Some iGen will use emoji-based updates and drop-in to your office. For example, “TL:d/r” (too long didn’t read).
- Create face-to-face events and assess their conversation skills. [In the next decade, we may see more adults who know just the right emoji for a situation, but not the right facial expression!]
- Design a mix of team-based learning outcomes AND individual learning outcomes. [iGen are less enthusiastic about group work than Millennials and would rather focus on their own successes.]
- Get them out of their comfort zones and be OK with the potential for some backlash.

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