

Strategy: Engaging Today's Students

Each generation of students brings new opportunities for engagement. Considering the specific needs of Millennial students can increase opportunities for teaching and learning.

Origin

Bart, M. (November 16, 2011). The Five R's of Engaging Millennial Students.

<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/the-five-rs-of-engaging-millennial-students/>.

Application

Five "R"s for Engaging Millennial Students:

- Research-based methods: Millennials prefer a variety of active learning methods. If they are not interested, their attention shifts quickly. Many of their preferred elements—less lecture, use of multimedia, collaborating with peers—have been supported in research.
- Relevance: Since Millennials have grown up being able to Google everything they want to know, they do not value information for information's sake. Instead, they must see a need for information. The instructor's role is shifting from providing information to helping students apply information. One of the greatest challenges—and opportunities—is connecting course content to the current culture and making learning outcomes and activities relevant.
- Rationale: Millennials have been raised in a non-authoritarian manner and are more likely to comply with policy when it is explained with clear and specific rationale rather than because it is set forth by authority.
- Relaxed: Millennials prefer a relaxed environment where they interact informally with the professor and one another. In speaking with students, they use the term "laid back" frequently.
- Rapport: Millennials are very relational and are used to adults show great interest in them. When instructors show similar levels of interest, they seem more willing to pursue learning outcomes.

Reflection

- Which "R" do you feel is your strongest area and why?
- Which "R" do you feel is your biggest opportunity for growth and why?
- What "R" strategies do you use productively?