Five Strategies to Engage Today's Students

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Presented by:
Dr. Christy Price

Dr. Christy Price has been teaching at the collegiate level for twenty years. Currently she is professor of psychology at Dalton State College. In 2007 Dr. Price won the Excellence in Teaching Award at Dalton State. In 2008/2009 Dr. Price won the University System of Georgia Teaching Excellence Award in the Two & Four-Year College. In 2009 she was also honored by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition as an Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate.

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November 1, 2011

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THE Teaching PROFESSOR

Our presenter:

Dr. Christy Price
cprice@daltonstate.edu
What Generation Are You?
A. Silent 1925 - 1942
B. Baby Boomers 1943 - 1960
C. Generation X 1961 - 1981
D. Millennials 1982 - 2002
(Nexters, Gen Y, Echoboom)

The Student Perspective on Professors
Some comments are clearly negative...

“She acted like she knew more than the students.”

“She wants us to no how to spell.”
Some comments are difficult to classify...

“Class was very easy. I didn’t know what he was talking about most of the time, but I still made an A.”

Some comments are difficult to classify...

“I failed a quiz because I didn’t realize he was teaching – I thought he was just talking.”

Some comments are difficult to classify...

“If I only had one hour to live I would spend it with Dr. Preston... because he can make an hour seem like a lifetime.”
Characteristics of the Millennial Student

- Feel special
- Impatient
- Materialistic
- Self-absorbed
- Uncomfortable with formality

Who is responsible for raising such a group?

Mom if you help me pick up my toys, I’ll give you…. A STICKER.”

Millennials were raised on extrinsic reinforcers

Millennials’ Ideal Learning Environment

Think-Pair-Share:
pg. 1 Groovy Checklist
How does the learning environment you create meet Millennial desires?

A. Majority of checks in the Beyond Groovy column
B. Majority of checks in the In the Groove column
C. Majority of checks in the Got to Get Groovin’ column

#1 “R” - Research-Based Teaching Methods

No Lecture Only – variety, discussion, application

According to research at The National Training Lab – Bethesda, Maryland

Teaching Methods & Student Learning

Students are:

- Lecture: 20%
- Reading: 75%
- Audio-visual: 90%
- Demonstration: 5%
- Discussion: 10%
- Application: 30%
- Teaching: 50%
A Tale of Two Anatomy Professors

Students must learn the facts. There isn’t any other way to teach except to stand in front of them and give them those facts. The primary objective of this course is to memorize large chunks of information.

(adapted from Bain, 2004)

A Tale of Two Anatomy Professors

My role is to help students learn to use the information to solve medical problems. I explain how things work and attempt to clarify concepts, but we also grapple with problems and cases.

(adapted from Bain, 2004)
How do your assessments and assignments meet Millennial desires?

A. Majority of checks in the Beyond Groovy column

B. Majority of checks in the In the Groove column

C. Majority of checks in the Got to Get Groovin’ column

#2 “R” - RELEVANCE

Info. Age = No Value of Information for Information’s Sake
Make Outcomes & Assessments RELEVANT

1. Communication skills (verbal & written)
2. Strong work ethic
3. Teamwork skills (works well with others)
4. Initiative / motivation
5. Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)

NACE Job Outlook

Bain’s Paradigm Shift:

From transmission model (bulimic learning) to pursuing answers to relevant BIG QUESTIONS

Student Interviews – Ideal Assessment

Frequent testing, study guides, preparation time
#3 “R”- RATIONALE for assignments & policy

I am distracted when others text, fb or play games on their cell phone in class.

A. strongly agree  10%
B. agree 22%
C. uncertain 9%
D. disagree 28%
E. strongly disagree 31%

(n=78)

Millennials’ Ideal Professor

Think-Pair-Share:
pg. 5 Groovy Checklist
As a professor, how do I meet Millennial desires?

A. Majority of checks in the Beyond Groovy column

B. Majority of checks in the In the Groove column

C. Majority of checks in the Got to Get Groovin' column

#4 “R” - RELAXED Laidback Professor

Non-Authoritarian & makes an effort to connect

Significant learning is most likely to occur within the context of a significant relationship.
1. Millennials are extremely relational
2. Raised central to their parents’ lives
3. They expect professors to connect with them on a personal level
### How did you rank on the Rapport list?

A. Majority of Checks in *Win Swimsuit*
B. Majority of Checks in *No Tomatoes*
C. Majority of Checks in *Tomatoes Tossed*
D. Refuse to Groove – I don’t desire to have a positive rapport with students

### Five Rs for the Millennial

1. Research based teaching methods
2. Relevance
3. Rationale - methods & assessments
4. Relaxed learning environment
5. Rapport

### Cyclist Savant

**Closing Exercise**

What one small step will you take?

How will your teaching change?

*Callahan Price*
Questions or Comments?

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