




## MEET Z

### Engaging **G E N Z** in Your Classroom

#### Who is Gen Z?

-  Born between 1995-2010
-  Raised in post-9/11 & recession
-  First digital-native generation

#### How is Gen Z unique?

-  Globally Connected
-  Unlimited Access to Info
-  Consume in Visuals

### Strengths

## Gen Z in the Classroom

### Struggles



### What are the learning needs of Gen Z?

meddler  
in the middle  
over  
sage on the stage



hands on, minds on  
over  
quiet, listen



experiences  
over  
textbooks



technology  
as a tool  
over  
technology  
as a distraction



# FACULTY RESOURCES

## Engaging



## in Your Classroom

## ENGAGE Z

### Content

- **Add visuals.** Find (or have students make) symbols, pictures, drawings, or infographics whenever possible. Show pictures with storytelling. Students have cameras 24/7 - put them to use.
- **Break it down.** Use headings and bullet points on handouts. Make (or have students make) Top 5 lists or high-level study guides.
- **Use real examples.** Gen Z is connected to real stories and crises every day. They respond to real scenarios.
- **Tie to the workplace.** Gen Z is job-oriented, realistic, and financially-driven. Frame your content around their success on the job.
- **Teach risk-taking.** Communicate that it's OK to fail. Give Gen Z opportunities to fail and reflect on their experience.

NO.1 TIP

**Break it up.** Gen Z is used to moving between topics and getting info in bits and bytes. Divide up your class content and activities into smaller chunks. Strive for a variety of activities in each class.

### Activities

- **Start class with a problem to solve.** Begin every class with a problem or scenario. Get students active and working from the start.
- **Mini-quizzes or quick questions.** Feed Gen Z's desire for regular feedback with mini checks of knowledge.
- **In-class research.** Gen Z is comfortable researching on their devices. Put those skills to use in finding examples, current events, photos, videos, and more.
- **Analytic teams.** Group members are each assigned a role: proponents, critics, example givers, summarizers, questioners, critics, oracles, etc. Members respond to a video, scenario, lecture, or book chapter in their role.
- **Station rotation.** Divide activities for the day into stations. Stations could have a theme, such as "find the error."
- **Competitions.** Motivate with team/individual challenges.

NO.1 TIP

**Involve students in the creation of problems and solutions.** Gen Z is a "maker" generation. Get them involved in the creation of class materials.

### Communication



1

#### Interact with Students by Name

Learn your students' names and begin using them on the first day of class. Interact with students by name throughout the semester.

2

#### Check In Regularly

Gen Z craves feedback. Pay attention to student behavior and track student progress. Consider using the [Remind](#) tool for texting and Blackboard for reporting grades.

3

#### Schedule One-On-One Meetings

At the beginning of the semester and throughout schedule required, one-on-one meetings with students. Gen Z values "face time."

4

#### Practice Paradox

Structure your course clearly and communicate your expectations. Then, be flexible with the needs of students in and outside of the classroom. Gen Z is often juggling school & work.

References

- Cook, V.S. (2017). [Gen Z Students](#). University of Illinois Springfield Faculty Summer Institute.
- [The 4 Connections](#) by [Lake Washington Institute of Technology](#), licenced under [CC-BY-4.0](#)
- Rothman, D. (2014). [A Tsunami of Learners Called Generation Z](#).
- Seemiller, C. & Grace, M. (2016). *Generation Z Goes to College*. San Fransisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.