

UNDERSTANDING THE NET GENERATION: MILLENNIALS AND MUSIC TEACHER EDUCATION

Timothy S. Brophy, Ph.D.
University of Florida School of Music

Each generation has identifiable characteristics that are shaped by many factors. The present generation of college students has been named the “Millennial” generation (born 1982-present). Millennials are “the wanted children” of baby boomers, the object of intense media marketing, and are the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in history. Based on current research identifying the characteristics of these students, the following and other suggestions for successfully teaching the Millennials will be discussed: (a) the quality of student-faculty contact; (b) the importance of learning names, seeking informal contact, talking to students outside of the class; (c) styles of class participation; class participation in groups: assign group activities, discussions, learning partners; (d) the importance of providing more frequent, prompt, and constructive feedback; (e) emphasis on “time on task” to help students gauge the amount of necessary effort to reach goals; (f) the clarity of the syllabus -- providing well-structured assignments and explicit expectations; (g) the use of technology beyond just being able to make a PowerPoint slide – such as online quizzes, chat capabilities, automatically-graded web-based homework; (h) students’ knowledge of how to use the library or do research; and (i) the importance of academic honesty. Recommendations for capitalizing on the unique strengths of these students in music teacher education will be presented.