

Lesson 4 – Characteristics of Today’s Learner

Introduction

Here’s a fun fact: By the year 2020, the generation of students we call “millennials” will make up almost half of the workforce. We have a lot to learn from young people born between 1980 and 2000, but they have a lot to learn too — about being good students, good employees, and good citizens. Fortunately, there is plenty of research out there about the millennial generation and how to support them. That’s what we’re going to talk about in Lesson Four.

There’s more to being a 21st century learner than just knowing how to use the Internet and social media. People who have studied our changing learning and work styles notice that young people entering the workforce respond well to specific kinds of coaching and direction. That’s good news for everyone because it means we’re working with a generation of young people who value success, even if it sometimes feels like they want a little *too* much handholding. It turns out that desire for support can actually be a good thing — if you know how to approach it.