

Is the Young Generation Dumber or Smarter Today?

TCH 505 Instructional Technology for Today's Educator

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The Generation is Dumber

- The generation is dumber due to
 - Lack in content knowledge
 - Weak intellectual curiosity
 - Less leisure reading
 - Less learning time, more remediate courses need to be offered in college
 - Limited knowledge of the world
 - Too much retrieving activities, not real knowledge
 - Not enough civic engagement, lack of reasoning in moral and philosophical complexities
 - Getting information horizontally not vertically
 - Extreme time spent on social activities over the Internet
 - Excessive gone-wild social life that kids have no time for curricula related work

The Generation is Smarter

- The generation is Smarter due to
 - Higher IQ scores
 - Higher Raven Test scores
 - Academic achievement is higher
 - Higher SAT & ACT score (grade declines because more test takers, actually it has increased). So do other entrance exam (GMAT, GRE...)
 - Extra-curricula are much enriched
 - Kids watch less TV, read more online
 - People use games for learning
 - Students are learning at a more complex level in information processing and reasoning scale.

Solutions

- Legislation on Internet to ban harmful information to kids
- Help students locate more useful information on the Internet
- Develop modules on how to take the advantages of the Internet technology to enhance learning efficiency and quality
- Research on strategies on how to convert “distractions” into learning opportunities in the Internet learning and living environment

Reference

- A Debate between:
Mark Bauerlein, Emory University and Neil
Howe, LifeCourse Associates