

Student Learning & Gen Z

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Objectives

By the end of this session, you'll be able to:

- ▶ Identify characteristics of Gen Z students
- ▶ Align teaching strategies with student characteristics
- ▶ Describe self-regulated learning
- ▶ Identify strategies that encourage self-regulated learning



Your Students Today

Students are diverse

- ▶ Experiences (learning and life)
- ▶ Background (demographics)



Generation X	Generation Y - Millennial	Generation Z
Born 1960s - 1980	Born 1980s to early 1990s	Born 1995-2010

Note: We are using the definitions from Seemiller & Grace (2016)



Snowball Share

What do you think is different about GenZ college students vs your parents' generation?





Beloit Mindset List for Class of 2020

They have never had to watch or listen to programs at a scheduled time.

- ▶ Class at a scheduled time?

If you want to reach them, you'd better send a text—emails are often ignored.

- ▶ Communication norms are different

NFL coaches have always had the opportunity to throw a red flag and question the ref.

- ▶ Taught to speak up, stand up for oneself and question everything

X-rays have always been digital allowing them to be read immediately.

- ▶ Immediate useful feedback is expected

Robots have always been surgical partners in the O.R.

- ▶ Learning needs to be job focused
- ▶ Technology is a part of everyday lives



Active Learning

- ▶ Prefer active learning strategies that engage learner with content

- ▶ Teaching Strategies
 - Avoid long lectures; segment content into 15 min intervals
 - Infuse activity within a longer lecture
 - Think-pair-share
 - Problem-solving
 - Short writing prompts
 - Case studies
 - Flipped classroom





Collaborative Learning

- ▶ Comfortable with teamwork, but also value intra-personal learning

- ▶ Teaching Strategies
 - Small group work projects
 - Jigsaw
 - Peer evaluation
 - Structure some assignments for individual work
 - Faculty take facilitative approach





Technology Integration

- ▶ Comfortable with new technologies and expect faculty to be proficient in subject and technology
- ▶ Teaching Strategies
 - Use technology (in a purposeful way)
 - Involve the world outside the classroom
 - Integrate technology tools to promote interactivity and self-directed searching





Clarity in Goals and Expectations

- ▶ Need for clear goals, assignment expectations and timelines
- ▶ Teaching Strategies
 - Provide framework for rubrics & feedback
 - Incorporate check-points throughout long projects
 - Detailed assignment expectations given early and easily accessible
 - Syllabus with tentative due dates, test dates
 - Break syllabus down week-by-week

Communication is essential!



Co-Creation of Knowledge

- ▶ Role of instructor
- ▶ Role of student
- ▶ Role of peers

Share and reinforce your philosophy of teaching and learning from day one!





Learning & Gen Z

Instantaneous, accessible, and abundant information

- ▶ Strategy: Demonstrate how to determine credible sources for research and academic writing

Value information that is relevant to securing a job

- ▶ Strategy: Provide experiential learning opportunities and gaining real-world experience

Creative classes cut during K-12 (No Child Left Behind Act, Standardized Test focus)

- ▶ Strategy: Encourage creativity and integration of concepts through activities and assignments



Think - Pair - Share:

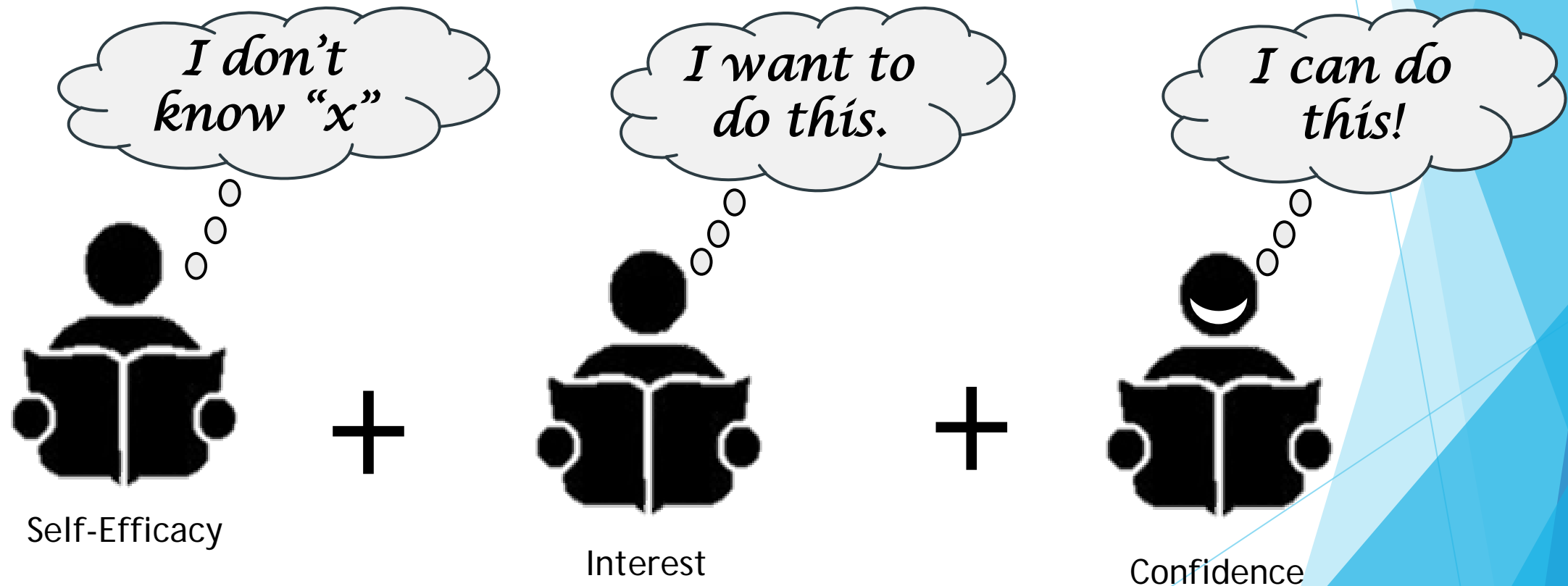
What strategies have you used or experienced in your classes related to: active learning, collaboration, or technology integration?



Self-Regulated Learning



“systematic use of **metacognitive**, **motivational** and/or **behavioral** strategies is a key feature of most definitions of self-regulated learners” (Zimmerman, 1990, 5.)





Strategies That Support Self-Regulated Learning

Assessments

- ▶ Mixture of low & high stakes testing
- ▶ Early and often
- ▶ Self-assessments (e.g. ExamWrappers)

Feedback: frequent & timely

- ▶ Assignments have constructive feedback beyond grade
- ▶ Regular grading & input interval
- ▶ Post-exam review



Learning & Gen Z

- ▶ Want to co-create their learning
- ▶ Communicate with great speed with a variety of methods; any time of day/night
- ▶ Expect collaboration and engagement
- ▶ Are self-learners
 - ▶ Encourage and align activities that promote **self-regulated learning....**



“Today’s learners are quite different from past generations of learners...primarily because the world is quite different”

(Coates, 2007, 38-39)

Resources for You



Center for Teaching & Learning – Cartwright Hall

- ▶ Peer observations & review
- ▶ Consultations (best practices, technology integration and evidence-based strategies)
- ▶ Teaching Tools in a Flash
- ▶ Working lunches
- ▶ CTL Blackboard Course

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Resources

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