Practicing Liberal Education: How are students changing?

I

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Millenials

Strauss and Howe (2003) characterize this generation (born post-1982) as:

- Pressured and programmed.
- Special and sheltered.
- Bonded to their parents and networked to their friends.
- Want structure and instant feedback.
Millenials

- They expect to be doted on and served.
- They work well in teams and have complete confidence in their future.
- They fear risk and dread failure.
- They have conventional life goals.
- They want the system to work.

Strauss and Howe, *Millenials Go to College*
UMM Student Data Trends

UMM Entering First-year Student Trends
The American Freshman CIRP Survey
Activities Noted in the Final Year of High School

- Performed volunteer work
- Attended religious service
- Discussed politics
- Socialized with another race
- Discussed religion
- Performed community service

UMM Entering First-year Student Trends
The American Freshman CIRP Survey
Students' Chances are Very Good that He/She Will...

Engagement & Personal Development

- Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group
- Participate in student clubs/groups
- Get a job to help pay for college expenses
- Participate in a study abroad program
- Participate in volunteer or community service work
- Seek personal counseling
Indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following...

- Understanding other countries and cultures
- Promoting racial understanding
- Influencing social values
Indicate the importance to you personally of each of the following:

- Being very well off financially
- Becoming authority in my field
- Recognition from colleagues
- Successful in own business
- Writing original works
- Accomplished in performing arts
- Creating artistic work
- Theoretical contribution to science
UMM Entering First-year Student Trends
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Student Agrees "Strongly" or "Somewhat"...

- Gov't not doing enough to control environmental pollution
- A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs
- The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns
- Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status
- Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now
- Dissent is a critical component of the political process
- Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society
- Abortion should be legal
- The death penalty should be abolished
- The chief benefit of a college education is that it increases one's earning power
UMM Entering First-year Student Trends
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Student Agrees "Strongly" or "Somewhat"...

There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals
Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education
The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit
Marijuana should be legalized
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished
Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships
Federal military spending should be increased
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America
Millenials at UMM?

- How does the material presented fit with your expectations of today’s students and how does it challenge them?
- What are the implications of this for your own teaching?
- How should UMM faculty as a whole address these issues in the next year?