

## **Teaching in a Cross-Generational Classroom in the Twenty-First Century**

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Abstract

A generational gap is not new to human society. However, for the first time, four generations work in the same workforce. Generational groups are interacting with each other in the workplace, classrooms, workplace and community. A better understanding of characteristics and learning styles can help educators and students better achieving educational goals. This article offers exploration of characteristics and learning styles of Baby Boomers, generation X and generation Y as Baby Boomers and generation X composes most of the educators and generation Y is the largest cohort of students in today's college classroom. This research is guided by the research question: how faculty can foster desirable learning environment in the cross-generational classroom in the twenty-first century to best prepare students enter into cross-generational workforce. Recommendations will be offered for teaching strategies, which include switching from teacher-center to student-center style, recognizing generational differences, using interactive and supportive style for teaching, and utilizing technology in interactive teaching and learning.