

Circle of Generations

Generations represent common experiences and shared values. A generation can also represent all the people born at about the same time. To understand your generation's perspective, learn more about the characteristics of each generation. What was happening for each generation that helped to form their thinking and visioning? To help foster respect, caring and cooperation between the generations, look at things that were happening in each of the five generations

Mature or Civic/GI Generation (1901-1931)

Characteristics include: Duty, honor, country, dedication, sacrifice, patience, hard times and then prosperity, national pride, doing a good job was the most important thing, and conformity + blending + unity = "WE".

Mediating Generation (1932-1944)

Characteristics include: Children of the depression and war, Peace Corp volunteers, civil rights and activists, created the corporate system, developed the concept of career, loyalty to employer, finest mediators, arbitrators, and public interest lawyers.

Baby Boomers (1945-1963)

Characteristics include: "Workaholic" and competitive, success is largely visible with trophies, plaques, and lifestyle elements, optimistic, consumers of lots of items, and social justice = real measure of citizenship.

Diversity or Generation X (1964-1981)

Characteristics include: Came of age when the traditional world leaders were struggling - i.e. - economy, Vietnam, Watergate, Japanese domination of industry, AIDS, birth control, first ones comfortable with technology, very self reliant, had to learn to fend for themselves and get along well with Civics, suspicious of Mediating and Boomers, and can be cynical and pessimistic.

Millennial Generation (1982- present)

Characteristics include: Optimistic, VERY short attention span, busy, entrepreneurial, ambitious yet clueless, acknowledge and admire select authorities, and think the Matures and Parents are cool, too!

How can the generations work together to solve problems in the community and families?
Through communication and working together, people can build relationships and learn from other generations.

Have a conversation with your family of different generations to see what respect was like when they were a teenager.

Source:

James V. Gambone, Together for Tomorrow - Building Community Through Intergenerational Dialogue

July 2007

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