

Title: "Butts in Seats" is no longer sufficient; Creating a culture of care in the classroom in order to boost retention and completion rates in generation-z

Presenter: Ashley Berry, Adjunct Faculty, Social Sciences

Contact: [Aberry13@gwc.cccd.edu](mailto:Aberry13@gwc.cccd.edu)

### **Gen-Z Learning Styles/Preferences:**

- Clarity in instruction/consistent feedback
- Practical applicability instead of abstract/theoretical concepts
- Student to student/student to professor collaboration
- Hybrid learning as the preferred teaching environment
- The use of digital media
- Learner-centric model (professor as the facilitator)

### **Rate my Professor:**

- Study found students who did well were exposed to a caring classroom environment (caring was perceived in 2 different ways)
  - o Caring as a personality trait
  - o Caring as a teaching technique

### **A Culture of Care:**

- Caring as Personality Trait
  - o Professors whom were- empathetic/relatable/approachable/enthusiastic/flexible/encouraging were perceived by their students as caring
  - o *Strategies:*
    - Knowing/pronouncing names correctly
    - Answering emails in a timely manner
    - Inviting support programs to present
    - Offering trigger warnings on sensitive topics
    - Changing required time stamps to 11:59pm
    - Detailed video feedback when possible
- Caring as Teaching Technique
  - o Professors whom were- passionate/content experts/engaging/humorous were seen as caring even if they didn't have "caring personalities"
  - o *Strategies:*
    - Employing adaptive teaching
    - Offering Easy-to-understand/memorable examples
    - Implementing culturally relevant pedagogy
    - Eye contact while lecturing
    - Less PowerPoint/more discussion between classmates and professor
    - Using authenticity in how professors interact with class
    - Using humor as an active learning strategy

## References:

Parker, K., Igielnik, R. (2020). *On the cusp of adulthood and facing an uncertain future: What we know about Gen Z so far* (Report No.) <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2020/05/14/on-the-cusp-of-adulthood-and-facing-an-uncertain-future-what-we-know-about-gen-z-so-far-2/>

Ratemyprofessor.com

Staff Writers(2020, December 18). The 30 Best College Professors in the U.S. <https://www.bestvalueschools.com/rankings/top-college-professors/>

Miller, A.C. (2019). If They Don't Care, I Don't Care': Millennial and Generation Z Students and the Impact of Caring. *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*. 19(4), Doi: 10.14434/josotl.v19i4.24167

Smith, V.D., Wortley, A. (2017). Everyone's a Comedian. No Really, they are: Using Humor in the Online and Traditional Classroom. *Journal of Instructional Research*. 6. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1153377.pdf>

Seidman, A. (2016). I'm not joking. But maybe I should start? *Reading Improvement*, 53(1), 17+. <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A449837249/AONE?u=googlescholar&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=47041d66>