

## Kids These Days Won't Answer the Phone: Generations in Context



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#### 1. Group people by ages:

- 0-12
- 13-18
- 19-22
- 23-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-6061-80
- 81+

Question to Consider	Age Group – 19-22 – Average College Student
What is your income?	Part time job, full time job, no job, help from parents, student loans, most likely less than 20-30,000 a year
What is your family structure?	Still in touch with parents and siblings, maybe grandparents
Who do you live with?	Parents, roommates, friends, maybe alone or with spouse
Who do you spend your day with?	Peers close to your own age, teachers, supervisors, coworkers
Who are your friends?	People your own age, high school and college friends, new friends
What major life stages are happening?	Moving away from parents, college or university, working
What are your priorities?	Job, education, dating, friends, establishing identity independent of family

2. Consider the above questions about life experiences of each age group. Answers are for an average college student aged 19-22



2018 Tide Pod Challenge



1940 Swallowing Live Goldfish

3. Rather than cave to assumptions ... do some academic research!

Psychology of particular ages
Demographic trends
Historical experiences of age groups
Trends through the ages

people things and always have.

Young people tend to do young

#### Start Here

#### When were you born?

Using the year you were born as a guide for understanding your context and others is the most valuable place to start rather than applying a generational moniker. Explore this poster as a guide for considering better ways of thinking about supposed generational problems.

#### The four biggest things that affect us are:

- 1. Year You Were Born and Age
- 2. Economy
- 3. Events
- 4. Technology

Overall: socioeconomic status of home and local area

## Technology and Events





## 6. Technology: Ask yourself

- How old were you when you got access to certain technologies?
- Were you able to afford the same technologies as your friends?
- Did all of your friends or peers get the same technology as you at the same time?
- What kind of technology could your primary and secondary schools afford?
- Have you ever felt like you got behind in certain technological skills throughout your life? Why?

### 7. Events:

Remember that current events unite us but our age when they happened changes our experience of them. And to someone born after a tragedy, that tragedy has always existed and they cannot remember it.

- 9. Situate yourself within your own context of experiences
- 10. What is normal to you is not normal to everyone else.
- 11. Consider when someone was born, their age, the economy, events and technology and varied experiences and access

## Economy

# | Year | Current Age | Minimum | Wage | Adjusted for 2018 | High School Degree | Degree | Degree | Master's or Higher | Segment of 2018 | |

4. Consider: For a student paying \$22,083 per academic year working 52 weeks a year at 17 hours a week, they would need to be either make \$25.00 per hour to pay off college at the same rate as a student in 1980 OR work 60 hours a week at the current minimum wage

5. Consider: Economy changes over time – including inflation, general cost, expectations of things to own life style creep. How old you are

when economic changes happen can deeply impact your life, such as **graduating** or **retiring** during a recession. There will be fewer jobs, delaying your entrance into the workforce and you may experience a significant loss in your investments.

## Why do we do this and what do we do?

#### 8. Why do we do this?

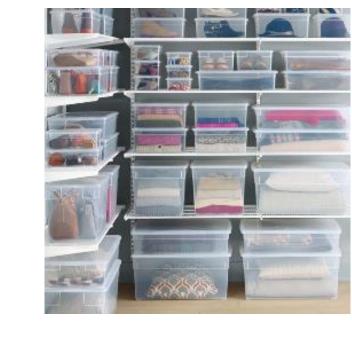
# Pattern Recognition: Snake in the Grass We evolved to see patterns and make choices quickly especially for survival.

So if you hear a rushing in the grass, you have to always assume it's a snake and not the wind. So we make

inherently complicated.

broad assumptions about other people we see.

Compartmentalizing for Fast Processing
Classifying things into neat boxes makes for fast
brain processing and easy memory creation.
Humans do have some behavior patterns but are



#### Us Vs Them

We also evolved to be distrustful of anyone who seems different than us and perceive them as a threat through infection disease or violence.



## Quote from Simone, The Good Place, Season 3, Episode 3

"As humans evolved, the first big problem we had to overcome was 'me versus us.' Learning to sacrifice a little individual freedom for the benefit of a group. You know, like sharing food and resources so we don't starve or get eaten by tigers, things like that. [...].

The next problem to overcome was 'us versus them,' trying to see other groups different from ours as equals.

That one, we're still struggling with."

Read more: <a href="https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/view\_episode\_scripts.php?tv-show=the-goplace-2016&episode=s03e03">https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/view\_episode\_scripts.php?tv-show=the-goplace-2016&episode=s03e03</a>