Bridging The First Year Experience

An “Element” Approach for
Reaching and Teaching Students

Presented by
Debi Keyzer and Ellen Zimmerman
The Pew Research Center, an American think tank organization, defined "adult Millennials" as those who are 18 to 33 years old, born 1981–1996.
Key Characteristics of Contemporary Students

- Immediacy ("I want it now" generation)
- View the world from a 24/7 perspective
- Expect immediate answers
- Have online emotional and intellectual openness
- Think they are good multi-taskers
- Non-systematic problem solvers
- Act first, ask for help later
Most students are not ready for college-level material after high school

40% of all students who enter college must take developmental courses

Over the last decade, the amount of time needed by students to complete developmental courses has been increasing

Time spent studying has steadily declined for the last four decades

The equation “effort = success” is often unclear to our students.

Dr. Robert Feldman, University of Massachusetts
Bridging The First Year Experience has been designed with today's student in mind; incorporating current/relevant topics and research covering:
Sample Lesson

- Current Event
- Relevant
- Meaningful
- Controversial
- Emotionally Charged
THINK, PAIR, SHARE, SOLIDIFY ACTIVITY:

This activity not only fosters critical thought, but pulls from individual knowledge and addresses bias/assumptions. It allows for sharing within a small group, and subsequently challenges you to share your group's opinions with the entire class utilizing evaluating and creating questioning levels.

What the Ferguson Verdict Should Have Taught You About Critical Thinking

Think: Read the article on your own. Brainstorm a list of statements that came to mind after your initial read.

Pair: In Groups of Three: Address the Following Questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the author's perspective and arguments? Why or why not?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the article?
3. Is there another way to look at the implications of this case related to society in general? To you personally?

Share: Be ready to discuss your results with the class.

Solidify: After completing this activity, reflect on the practical implications of integrating critical thinking into your everyday life. Brainstorm statements related to the concept of thinking critically that you can utilize both during your college experience and beyond. Pros? Cons? Important? Unimportant? Why?
Thank you