

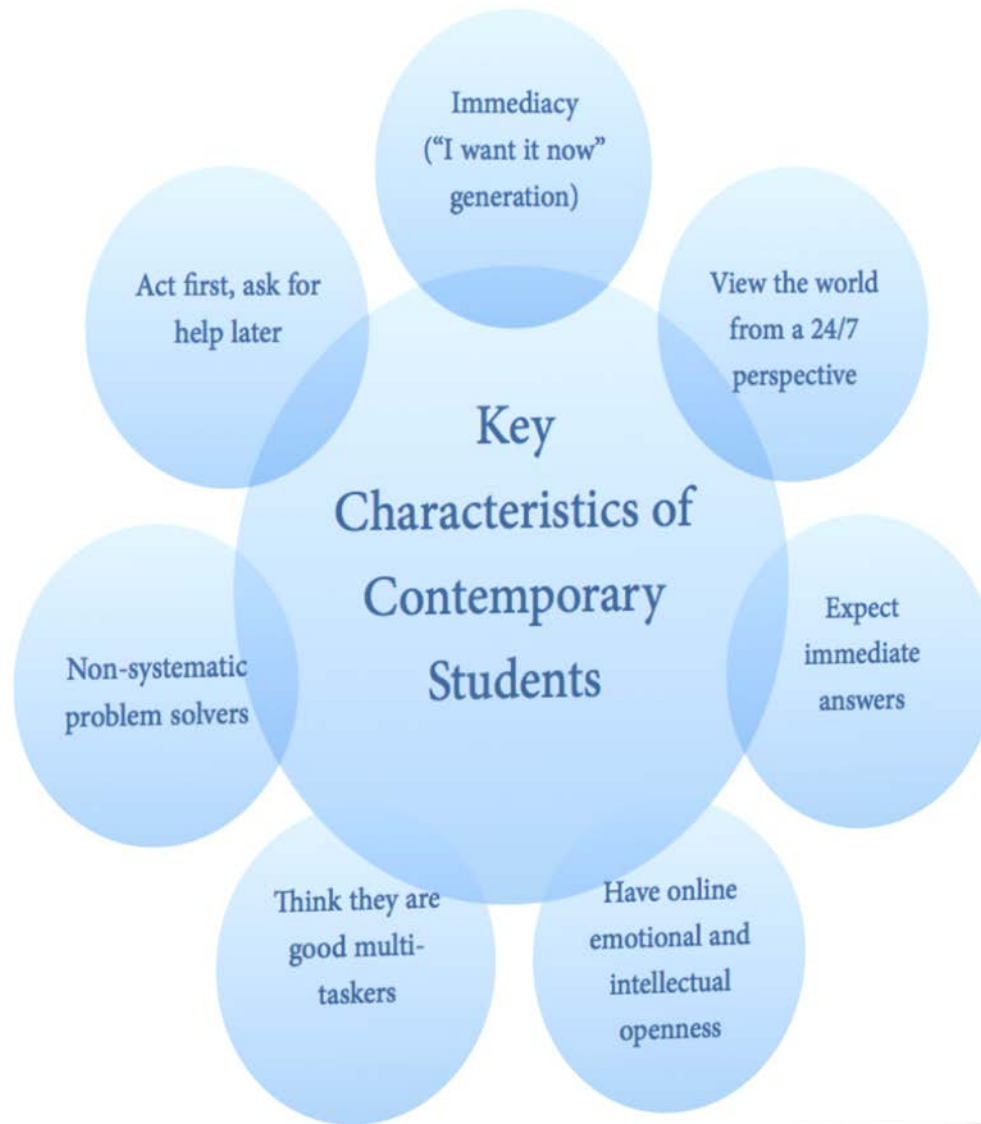
Bridging The First Year Experience

An “Element” Approach
for
Reaching and Teaching Students

Presented by
Debi Keyzer and Ellen Zimmerman

Some Information About Today's Students

The Pew Research Center, an American think tank organization, defined "adult Millennials" as those who are 18 to 33 years old, born 1981–1996.

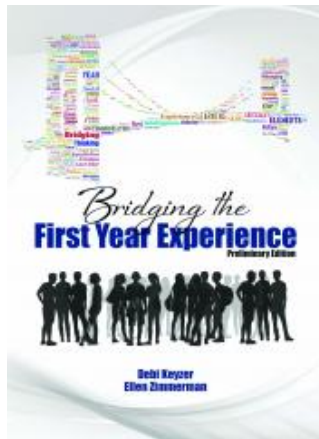


College Students Often Lack Academic Preparation and Adequate Study Skills

- ✓ 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.

The “Element” Approach

Bridging The First Year Experience has been designed with today’s student in mind; incorporating current/relevant topics and research covering:

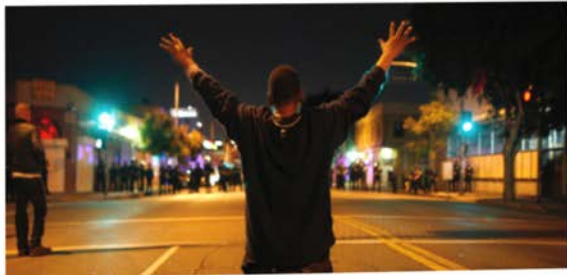




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What the Ferguson Verdict Should Have Taught You About Critical Thinking

Posted: 11/25/2014 5:51 pm EST | Updated: 01/25/2015 5:59 am EST



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Back in the not so distant past, I remember watching the O.J. Simpson murder trial with some of my college friends and our discussions became heated. No, we didn't come to blows and we didn't stoop to name calling, but we did have diametrically opposed opinions when it came to whether Simpson should walk or fry. I would make my points, my buddies would offer their counterpoints, and the cycle continued.

Even though we never came to a consensus, a beautiful thing happened: We had a respectful debate. We felt energized and empowered to believe what we believed while also empathizing with those who felt differently. I learned from my friends, they learned from me, and the issues were spoken about thoughtfully. It was a clichéd win-win situation.

I remember my parents having the same thoughtful discussions with me and my brothers when similar hot button topics came up in the news. That's just how things were handled back in the day. Then Al Gore invented the World Wide Web and respectful, open-minded discussions began to take a nosedive.

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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?



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Thank you