

Generation Z, Diversity & Fake News

**How teachers can help students
make sense of the modern world**





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Scan to visit the webpage for this resource

<https://www.ilctr.org/generation-z-diversity-and-fake-news>

Introduction

Every generation brings a fresh perspective on social and political issues, and educators have to find ways to adjust to these changes. The post-millennial generation of young Americans currently coming of age, known as Generation Z, has already cemented its reputation as politically engaged, highly educated and very diverse. While there are actually fewer foreign-born post-millennials than millennials, they are still highly likely to come from immigrant families. Nearly one-third of “Gen Z” is either an immigrant or the child of immigrants, and almost half is non-white.

While [research shows that diversity is beneficial](#), it can be challenging for students to reap those benefits when anti-immigrant rhetoric and racial tensions

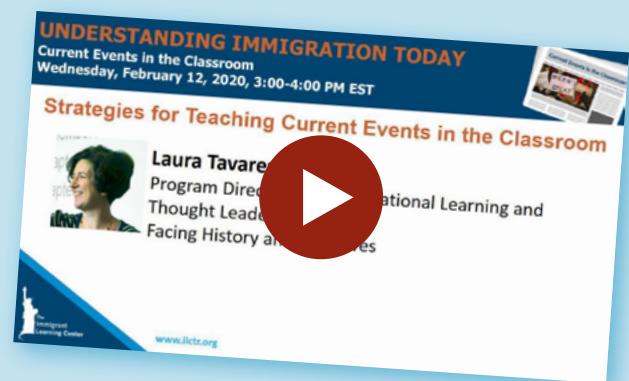
dominate the national stage. Professor John Rogers at UCLA notes that [89 percent of high school principals report](#) “incivility and contentiousness in the broader political environment has considerably affected their school community,” and an additional 83 percent see untrustworthy and disputed information fueling inner-school tensions.

Fortunately, there are techniques educators can use to help ensure that young people are getting the culturally competent support they need, even in environments where race and immigration are contentious topics. Some tips are provided in this article. We dive further into these techniques in our free February 2020 webinar, [Understanding Immigration Today: Current Events in the Classroom](#).

Understanding Immigration Today: Strategies for Teaching Current Events in the Classroom

Laura Tavares underlines strategies to interpret immigration news stories, create space for positive discussions and build critical thinking skills in her presentation from the free webinar [Understanding Immigration Today: Current Events in the Classroom](#).

- ▶ Watch the recording on [YouTube](#) (9:53 minutes)
- ▶ Download the [written transcript](#)
- ▶ Download the [presentation slides](#)



Media Literacy



In order to develop these dispositions, students need to feel safe to engage and express themselves. Classrooms can be a place to learn accurate information about current events and hold compassionate, evidence-based discussions.

Gen Zers get their news predominantly from the internet and social media. This means that not only are they vulnerable to seeing false or incomplete information, they are also exposed to confusing opinions and hurtful biases. They need to learn how to tell opinion from fact and fact from fiction. Teachers can help their students by incorporating current events into the classroom and showing students how to evaluate “news.”

There are a [number of resources](#) for children and teenagers that explain the headlines in age-appropriate formats, ranging from NBC Learn for ages seven and older to PBS NewsHour Extra for 14 and above.

It can also be useful for students to share opinions in the classroom, especially if there are clear guidelines around using respectful language. By exploring these resources and discussions in a classroom, students can form their own opinions with accurate information in a compassionate and calm environment.

Attitude Adjustment

One of our content partners, Re-Imagining Migration, creates curricula and related resources for diverse classrooms. They've identified [five key dispositions](#) that are essential for success in a diverse environment: understanding perspective, being curious and inquiring, communicating, recognizing inequality, and taking action.

Educators who teach the skill set and attitudes that correspond to these dispositions can help their students face an uncertain world. Even the most dedicated teacher can't prepare students for every painful situation or ethical dilemma, but they can help students develop critical thinking and emotional resilience.



Understand perspective

Value one's own and others; empathize with others, honoring their dignity and seeking to understand their experiences and perspective



Inquire about migration with care

Exhibit care and curiosity about our shared and divergent human experience of migration



Communicate across differences

Listen empathically and mindfully; appreciate and reflect on respectful, inclusive dialogue across race, nationality, gender, religion and ethnicity



Recognize inequalities

Recognize power and inequities in various forms; understand one's own position vis-à-vis power and inequities



Take action

Employ understanding, voice and action to foster equitable and inclusive societies; reflect and revise our actions

Let Them Lead

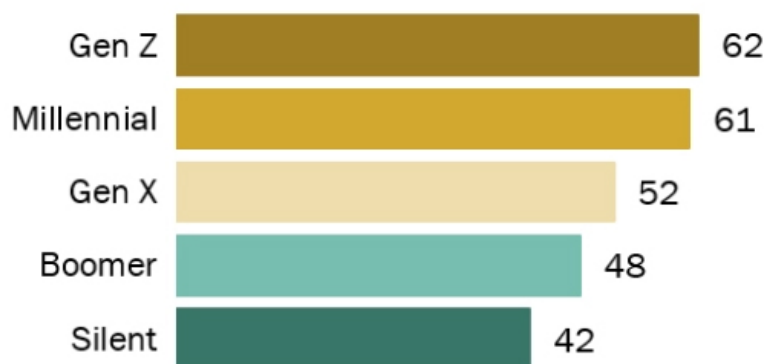
It's not only young people who have something to learn. Educators have great reasons to put faith in their students and give them opportunities to lead.

Sometimes called iGen, this generation has grown up in the digital age with a wealth of information at their fingertips, and they are showing themselves to be both [well-informed and highly motivated by education and new experiences](#).

They also tend to [value diversity and have a more international outlook](#) than previous generations. As this cohort of young people enters universities and workplaces, they are sure to infuse these values into their institutional cultures and society at large. So while teachers can and should take steps to help their students grow, there are times when students can lead the way.

Younger generations see increased diversity as good for society

% saying increasing racial and ethnic diversity is a good thing for our society



Source: Pew Research Center.
Surveys of U.S. adults ages 18 and older conducted Sept. 24 - Oct. 7, 2018,
and U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 conducted Sept. 17 - Nov. 25, 2018.

More Resources

Re-Imagining Migration



Re-Imagining Migration has an incredible stock of resources for educators teaching about immigration.

(<https://reimaginingmigration.org>)

Colorín Colorado



Colorín Colorado offers strategies, best practices, books, videos and more to educators and families of English language learners (ELLs).

(<https://www.colorincolorado.org>)

More curated, on-demand resources



Resources for educators from The Immigrant Learning Center's Public Education Institute.

(<https://qr.go.page.link/e8kkj>)

Free, on-demand webinars for educators



Free, on-demand webinars for educators from The Immigrant Learning Center's Public Education Institute.

(<https://qr.go.page.link/bzJYD>)



About The Immigrant Learning Center

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA, is a not-for-profit organization that gives immigrants a voice in three ways. The English Language Program provides free, year-round English classes to help immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston become successful workers, parents and community members. The Public Education Institute informs Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society. The Institute for Immigration Research, a joint venture with George Mason University, conducts research on the economic contributions of immigrants. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ilctr.org>.

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Handout: Print-Friendly Guide to Resources

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Nearly half of post-Millennials are racial or ethnic minorities

<https://qrgo.page.link/VzVAo>



The Benefits of Diversity in Schools

<https://qrgo.page.link/avAVL>



School and Society in the Age of Trump

<https://qrgo.page.link/ooe2w>



Recordings of The ILC's webinar "Understanding Immigration Today: Current Events in the Classroom"

<https://qrgo.page.link/aYcDK>



Recording of "Strategies for Teaching Current Events in the Classroom" with Laura Tavares

<https://qrgo.page.link/yPTe9>



Written transcript of "Strategies for Teaching Current Events in the Classroom" with Laura Tavares

<https://qrgo.page.link/ZQ8wH>



Presentation slides from "Strategies for Teaching Current Events in the Classroom" with Laura Tavares

<https://qrgo.page.link/PHPfz>

Handout: Print-Friendly Guide to Resources

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Common Sense Media:
Best News Sources for Kids
[https://www.
commonsensemedia.org/lists/
best-news-sources-for-kids](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/best-news-sources-for-kids)

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Five Dispositions for
a World on the Move
[https://reimaginingmigration.
org/dispositions-for-world-
on-the-move](https://reimaginingmigration.org/dispositions-for-world-on-the-move)

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How Generation Z Is Shaping
The Change In Education
<https://qrgo.page.link/R5Qhm>



Generation Z Looks a Lot Like
Millennials on Key Social and
Political Issues
<https://qrgo.page.link/9CWrn>