

B. Digital Natives generalisation

Young people live their lives completely immersed in technology and are 'fluent in the digital language of computers, video games and the Internet'.

C. Computers not technology

According to Prensky, you people do not even consider computers 'technology' anymore.

OVER GENERALISATION!

D. Level of digital natives ability.

Researchers have found that only a minority of students around 21% were engaged in creating their own content and multimedia on the web; and that a significant portion of students had lower level skills than might be expected of digital natives.

E. Statistics

- Personal computer use 93.4%
- Mobile phone use 82%
- Word processing 99.5%
- Emailing 99.5%

F. Digital Natives not universal

Research has found that emerging technologies were not commonly used, with only 21% of respondents maintaining a blog, 24% using social networking and 21.5% downloading podcasts.

There are clearly areas where the use of and familiarity with technology based tools is far from universal!

G. Digital Natives can multitask

Digital natives can listen to music, talk on the phone and use the computer all at the same time according to Prensky.

There is no evidence that multitasking is a new phenomenon exclusive to digital natives - it can also relate to earlier generations doing their homework in front of the tv.

H. Gender roles

Gender plays a big part in using technology. Games have much more popularity with males than females.

I. Learning styles

To overhaul the education system so that teaching is now almost solely technology based is ludicrous. A whole generation does not have the same learning styles, so to change the system to just accommodate technology literate students would be disaster.

J. School vs. Home

A study revealed that home computer used varied widely from school use with regards to primary school children.

K. Disengagement problems

Prensky makes a generalisation about the way young people disengage is their teachers do not accommodate technology into the lesson. They 'switch off'

L. 'Snatch and Grab' Philosophy

Students apparently have a 'snatch and grab' philosophy. Meaning when they search something on the Internet they want instant gratification.

M. Moral Panics

Moral panics occur when a particular group in society, such as a youth subculture, is portrayed by the news by the media as embodying a threat to societal values and norms.

Marc Prensky

Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants, 2001

I. Today's students are different

Students today think and process information fundamentally differently from the older generations. (Digital Natives)

II. Brain Change

"Different kinds of experiences lead to different brain structures" Dr Bruce Perry of Baylor College of Medicine.

Our students' brains have physically changed. - Prensky

III. Fast processing

Digital Natives are used to receiving information really fast. They parallel process and multi-task.

IV. Graphics over Text

Digital Natives prefer their graphics before their text rather than the opposite. They prefer random access (hypertext).

V. Networked students

Digital Natives function best when networked. They thrive on instant gratification and frequent rewards.

VI. Immigrant "Accent"

Digital immigrants retain the old ways from the past. Their "accent" can be seen in such things as not using the internet first for information rather turn to books or manuals.

A. Examples of Accent

Printing out emails, print out documents to edit them rather than correct on the computer, calling people to check if they got the email.

VII. Language Difficulties

According to Prensky the single biggest problem facing education today is that our digital immigrant

instructors, who speak an outdated language (that of pre-digital age), are struggling to teach a population that speaks an entirely new language.

VIII. Problems with Immigrants

Digital Immigrants typically have little appreciation for new skills. They teach differently - step by step/one thing at a time.

IX. Immigrants vs Media

According to Prensky digital immigrants don't believe their students can learn successfully while watching TV, listening to music.

X. No Fun

Digital Immigrants think learning can't or (shouldn't) be fun.

XI. Old vs New

Kids born into any new culture learn the new language easily and forcefully resist using the old. Smart adult immigrants accept that they don't know about their new world and take advantage of their kids to help them learn and integrate. Not-so-smart immigrants spend most of their time grousing about how good things were in the "old country"

XII. Problem Solving Natives Vs Immigrants

A. Communication

Today's teachers have to learn to communicate in the language and style of their students.

B. Change content

We need to change the content from less Legacy content (reading, writing, arithmetic, logical thinking etc) to Future contents (software, hardware, robotics, nanotechnology etc)

C. Subject methodologies

Teachers need to invent Digital Native methodologies for all subjects, at all levels, using our student to guide us

XIII. Dumb Educators

It's just dumb (and lazy) of educators - not to mention ineffective - to presume that (despite their traditions) the Digital Immigrant way is the only way to teach, and that the Digital Natives "language" is not as capable as their own of encompassing any and every idea.