

## Can You Do It? Self-Assessment

1. Are you organized?
2. Do you get to class early?
3. Do you know all of your students' names by week 3 of the semester?
4. Do you help your students meet your expectations?
5. Do you relentlessly follow through with your own policies and class rules?
6. Are you excited about what you teach?
7. Do you constantly look for new ideas to spice up your lectures?
8. Do you ask your students for feedback about your teaching?
9. Do you make changes based on what your students like and dislike?
10. Do you use a variety of activities and change activities every 20-30 minutes?

## Scoring the assessment-"YES" answers

- 1-3 ~ Check the resources to learn more about the Millennials and then start making changes in what you do  
4-6 ~ You are on your way to getting them to do what you want. With a little additional refinement, you will have them doing what you want  
7-10 ~ You are doing it! Your students probably do what you want

## Websites for ideas and other resources:

<http://www.funfacts.com.au/>  
<http://www.didyouknow.org>  
<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history.do>  
[http://www.funnysign.com/funnysign\\_016.htm](http://www.funnysign.com/funnysign_016.htm)  
<http://www.YouTube.com>  
<http://www.TeacherTube.com>  
<http://youtubedownload.altervista.org/>  
YouTube Video: A Vision of Students Today  
YouTube Video: Children See Children Do  
The Millennials are Coming: A CBS News Story online  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/11/08/60minutes/main3475200.shtml>

Gloria J. Howell, M.S.Ed. is a teacher, trainer, and coach. To learn more about how to get your students to do what you want, contact me at

gloria.howell@saintleo.edu  
ghowell@glohow.com  
On the web: <http://www.glohow.com>



# How to Get Your Students To Do What You Want

**Gloria J. Howell**  
Saint Leo University

**The Teaching Professor  
Conference 2009**

Copyright ©2009 Gloria Howell

**Did you know...** most people do not have a bad memory when it comes to remembering names. They have bad listening skills!

**Our students** have a strong sense of entitlement, think nothing of texting or surfing the net during class, challenge course content, test questions, their grades, and the practicality of assignments, ask questions about requirements when everything is clearly explained in the syllabus, and show disrespect toward us.

**Our students** are the Millennials, the Gen Ys who were born after 1980, have Baby Boomer, doting parents, were micro-managed by their parent advocates, participated in limitless activities where everybody was a winner, spent summers traveling the globe, were laden with trophies, and were told they are special.

### **Their world is full of**

- instant information
- communication on demand
- collaboration
- multi-media
- entertainment
- being connected 24/7 to family, friends, the world

### **We can connect and entertain**

- Learn their names immediately
- Start each class with an attention grabber
- TWWA (Teach While Walking Around)
- Change activities frequently and use a variety
- Intersperse “Did you know...” in your lecture
- Keep power point presentations sparse
- Tell stories, poke fun at yourself
- Use props, sing, show short videos

**Did you know...** Adult learners tune in for 15-20 minutes at a time. Their best attention span is at the beginning of the class. Attention spans diminish to 3-4 minutes towards the end of a typical lecture.

**Did you know...** There are hundreds of short, educational videos on YouTube. You can find fun facts, trivia, and all kinds of interesting things on the internet. But it takes time to find cool stuff. The students know it takes time and they respect us for caring about them and their class.

**Our students** witnessed re-play after re-play of students running from classrooms where other students were being gunned down, witnessed re-play after re-play of the collapse of the twin towers, and experienced a re-emergence of patriotism and the heroism of those serving as police officers, firefighters, and military members.

**Some of our students** have already been to and have returned from Iraq or Afghanistan and are already disabled American vets, became parents at an age that I was still playing with toys and dolls.

**Our students** want to be successful but have limited experience with accountability and need help, need clear expectations about attendance, tardiness, due dates, missing exams, need specific guidelines for what to do and how to do it, and need information about the guiding principles we will use to grade their work.

They need us to tell them where to focus and what to disregard when they study, need us to remind them of the consequences for not following rules and not abiding by policies, and want us to be a first-rate role model.

They need to be challenged, rewarded, and respected, want us to understand them and see them as special - just like their parents do, need us to connect with them, talk to them, listen to what they say, allow them to show off, and praise them for what they do.

They need us to have our act together, need us to be organized, flexible, and know what we want, want us to have high moral standards, follow through with what we say we will do, and want us to care enough to make it fun.

**That’s how you get your students to do what you want!**