Digital Natives

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Perspectives on Teaching Practices

Prensky
- Step-by-step practices (Preferred by teachers) and linear approach is not engaging enough
- Digital immigrants (teachers) teaching in a 'foreign language' by using this approach

Tapscott
- Compares current education practices to torture

Both outline ways in which educators can turn learning a more interactive experience
Example: Video Games
Prensky: "Today's teachers have to learn to communicate in the language and style of their students."

- Change Methodology
- Change Content

Jaime McKenzie: Author of Digital Nativism Digital Delusions and Digital Deprivation

- Progressivist have argued for learning that appeals to senses and sparks curiosity.
Prensky vs. McKenzie

**Prensky**
- Stereotype of generations
- Endorsement of games
- "learning can't (shouldn't) be fun"

**McKenzie**
- Other reports say otherwise
- Harmful effects
- Progressive educators
Integration on video games

Prensky and Tapscott (Author of *Educating the Net Generation* 1999)

- Both believe that integrating video games into school for children would be helpful.
- Tapscott (unlike Prensky) notes that any change to the school system will face "financial cut backs, low teacher morale, increased work loads, and reduced retraining budgets."
Do They Really Think Differently?

Objections:

- "It may be that there is as much variation within the digital native generation as between the generations."

- Can a whole generation have a specific learning style?
  - Based on the individual
  - Based on previous success

- Muti-tasking:
  - Loss of concentration
  - 'Cognitive Overload'
  - Older generation and TVs
Pros and Cons

Pros
- Digital immigrants can learn how digital natives learn and how they can teach them as well.
- They learn to work with them and not against them.
- Digital natives thrive and learn more using technological education.
- Digital immigrants can learn to incorporate technology into their teachings.

Cons
- Digital natives may lose the foundation of textbook reading and research which is needed to support technological education.
"Digital Nativism, Digital Delusions, and Digital Depravation" by Jamie McKenzie
http://fno.org/nov07/nativism.html

A Changing World: Does Mark Prensky get an "A" or detention? By Nathaniel Stone

The 'digital natives' debate: A critical review of the evidence
British Journal of Education Technology Vol 39 No 5 2008 Bennett, Maton, Kervin