

TA members and friends,

Our students get a pretty bad rap sometimes. I expect this is especially true from us baby boomers. We often describe the MILLENNIALS as entitled, relentlessly helicoptered, narcissistic, etc., etc., etc. Certainly there's truth in some of this. At a minimum they are very different from us.

But why wouldn't they be different? They've grown up in very different times. And if we listen closely, I expect we can all hear the echoes of our parents' generation talking about us not so long ago. "*These kids today. Sigh.*"

But I think many of us also recognize that there are also some very cool things about these millennials. And in many ways, we are very lucky to have them as our students – at least that's true for a significant subset.

If you've got a couple of minutes, [this short story in the NY TIMES](#) provides an interesting and somewhat alternative look at the MILLENNIAL generation. It struck me as timely reading just before the new academic year.

Regardless, it's probably good for us all to remember: "*We need to teach the students we have, not the students we WISH we had.*" They're not us, and there's some very good things about that.

I hope you enjoy. Here's wishing everyone another great year of teaching AND learning. It's going to be the best year ever, right?

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NYT: **Generation Nice** <http://nyti.ms/1sK5kI3> The millennials are emerging as a dominant demographic force. What does that mean for the rest of us?

Also, here's my annual pre-fall semester inspirational video – the same I've sent out the past few years. Worth a view this time of year: [Taylor Mali on "What Teachers Make"](#) 3 min, 08 sec. slam poetry reading

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"Everyone leads: It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us."