

SOCIALLY SMARTER, INTELLECTUALLY IMMUNE: WHAT DRIVES FIRST YEAR STUDENTS



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FOCUSING ON THE FIRST YEAR CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 22, 2008

Date: October 2008

Sources

Clydesdale, Timothy T. The First Year Out : Understanding American Teens After High School. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007. (Wilson Library LB1695.6.C58 2007)

Nathan, Rebekah. My Freshman Year : What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005. (Wilson Library LB3605.N34 2005)

Media and Cultural Expectations of First Year students

- Need to understand teen culture
- Popular mainstream American culture
- Individualism in community

First year students are focused on daily life management

- Navigating relationships (friends, family, authority)
- Leisure activities (quiet, active, consumptive)
- Managing gratifications (surf party)
- Financial management & Jobs (support expensive teen lifestyle)

Identity Lockbox (race, gender, politics, religion) safe inside

- Continue trajectory set in high school
- Narrowed perspectives
- Cultural relativism

Practical Credentialists vs. Future Intelligensia

What can we do?

- Support daily life management
- Change expectations
- Offer practical, challenging courses
- Broader/deeper perspectives later in coursework
- Focus on workplace skills then broader liberal arts

Tools & Resources from the Library

Ask Us! Chat with a Librarian now available 24/7

Click on "chat" in upper left hand corner of Library homepage.

Work with your librarian (<http://lib.umn.edu/site/selector.phtml>)

Your librarian can help build information literacy skills through activities and assignments to ground students in finding, critically evaluating and using information from Internet and Libraries.

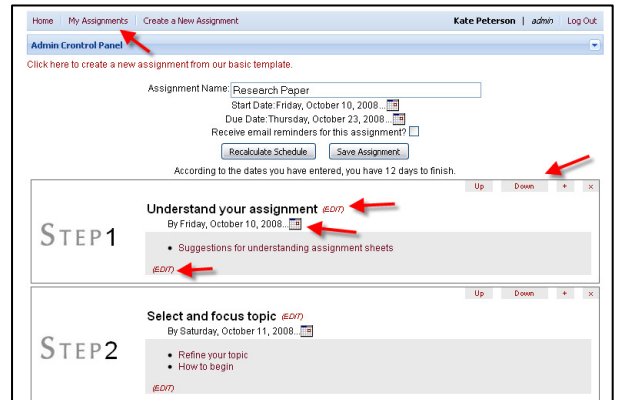
Library E-Learning (<http://www.lib.umn.edu/research/instruction/modules>)

Find a wide variety of just-in-time help you can use with students.

Assignment Calculator—Beta

(<https://tools.lib.umn.edu/AssignmentCalculator/AssignmentCalculator.html>)

You can create assignments based on your class and timing.



Additional Readings & Media:

American Teen. Dir. Burnstein, Nanette. Paramount Vantage, 2008.

Benton, Thomas H. "On Stupidity." Chronicle of Higher Education 54.47 (2008): A27-30.

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Guess, Andy. "Understanding Students Who Were 'Born Digital'." October 2, 2008.
<<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/10/02/digital>>.

Lang, James M. "The Myth of First-Year Enlightenment." Chronicle of Higher Education 54.21 (2008): C1-3.

Palfrey, John, and Urs Gasser. Born Digital : Understanding the First Generation of Digital Natives. New York: Basic Books, 2008. (Law Library HM851.P34 2008)

Sternheimer, Karen. It's Not the Media : The Truth about Pop Culture's Influence on Children. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2003. (Wilson Library HQ799.2.M35 S84 2003)

---. Kids these Days : Facts and Fictions about Today's Youth. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006. (Magrath Library HQ796.S82685 2006)

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