

## MANAGING DECREASING ATTENTION SPAN AMONG NEW GENERATION LEARNERS

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With the age of technology arising, the attention span of students has also changed. Unlike the previous generations such as the Generation X and Baby Boomers who have longer attention span and generally are more persevering, a report of Microsoft Corporation (2015) showed Millennials and Generation Z displayed shorter attention span and tend to be the ones to turn off speakers during online learning sessions. According to the report, researchers in Canada conducted a test for 2,000 participants where the brain activity was done through electroencephalograms (EEG). The results showed that since the year 2000, about the time when the mobile revolution began, the average attention span dropped from 12 seconds to eight seconds.

This finding is relevant to preparing lesson plans and activities today. As it is being emphasized to integrate technology to lessons, doing so would not suffice if the plan and execution is not well-thought of considering this discovery. When before, it was more on the pre-school children and younger learners do teachers always regarded shorter attention span, today, even those in the higher level of learning need to be considered in this aspect.

How can teachers manage shorter, or this decreased attention span? Effective technological tools is one solution. There are many available technological tools today that can be utilized to create engaging and interactive videos and presentations. The more actions and animations, the better. The key is to prevent the boredom of your audience. In the case of a class, prevent the boredom of the students. Technology alone cannot keep the attention, thus the way one presents the lessons is another crucial factor. Reading the

slides alone or letting the students just watch the video will not fully address the short attention span concern.

Presentation is vital in conducting classes. Vary the tones, projected moods, and make the class more interactive by facilitating the learning. This means that students are being actively engaged. Ask questions and let them ask questions. Have a lively discussion by allowing sharing of thoughts and ideas. Be mindful of mins that wander off by encouraging them to participate. Be ready with lots of open-ended questions and let exchanging of ideas flow freely. Remember, the classroom now is not for teaching but for facilitating learning. With this in mind, attention span problems may be addressed effectively when such methodology is practiced during the class.

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