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Did you know?

Twitter use by millennials has increased over the last three years by
16 percent

RUSHI PATEL / GRAPHIC
PEWRESEARCH / SOURCE

The Millennial* Controversy

Students disprove recent *TIME* article discussing negative aspects of millennials' personalities

*A millennial is a person born between 1980 and 2000

BY MICHELLE DAI

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Samuel Pickett, WHJE public relations director and senior, anticipated getting into the top three percent GPA of his class during his sophomore year. Although he was not devastated when he learned he did not, it was a bit disappointing. However, this unmet goal helped motivate him more to work hard. By junior year, he had gotten into the top three percent. The four AP classes and immense time spent studying outside of school had paid off.

Motivated Millennials

A recent *TIME* magazine article titled "The Me Me Generation" stated that millennials—those born approximately between 1980 and 2000—have a high self-esteem which leads to laziness. However, Purdue psychology professor William Graziano said that millennials remain very similar to previous generation in terms of self-esteem and laziness, despite cultural change. He said he thinks millennials are neither particularly lazy nor have excessive self-esteem.

Claire Corvari, varsity cross country runner and junior, said although she does have high self-esteem, she is not lazy. In fact, her self-esteem has caused her to be more motivated

because she knows she is capable of accomplishing things if she puts more effort into them.

For example, Corvari has had to put much energy and time into running. In the summer, she wakes up at 7 a.m. every weekday to run with her teammates. She said she also has to endure many tough workouts, including one called "steady state," in which she runs for eight miles, alternating between 6:30 mile times and 6:45 mile times without stopping.

Pickett is motivated as well, but he said he does not have an excessively high self-esteem. In order to reach his goals, he relies solely on hard work, as was the case when he attained the WHJE public relations director position.

"I had to work very hard to show that I was dedicated to the station, and I was capable of inherent work," Pickett said. "I turned all my assignments in on time. I was always enthusiastic at events. I made sure that the work I turned in was high quality. I was very detail oriented. I just did the best that I could."

Unmet Goals

In fact, the *TIME* article stated that millennials will end up with many unmet expectations because they have such high goals, yet they sometimes do not put much effort in accomplishing them. Graziano, however, said he does not believe that to be the case either.

Pickett and Corvari both have had unmet expectations, but they said these ultimately helped them work harder and achieve more goals in the long run. Corvari did not reach a goal once, during the second race of sophomore year.

"I expected to not do amazing, but at least do decently, and I ended up being a minute slower than I expected to be, and that was pretty disappointing. The race after that was one of my better races of the season though...I improved a lot the second race," Corvari said. "I was pretty disappointed in how I did the previous race, so I was

Generational Timeline

The G.I. Generation

Characteristics: Righteous, Productive, Disciplined, Education-minded

Famous members: Ray Bradbury, John F. Kennedy

The Silent Generation

Characteristics: Soft-spoken, Grave, Traditional, Moralistic

Famous members: Stephen Hawking, Neil Armstrong

The Baby Boomers

Characteristics: Independent, Goal-oriented, Hard-working, Competitive

Famous members: Steve Jobs, Barack Obama

Generation X (The Busters)

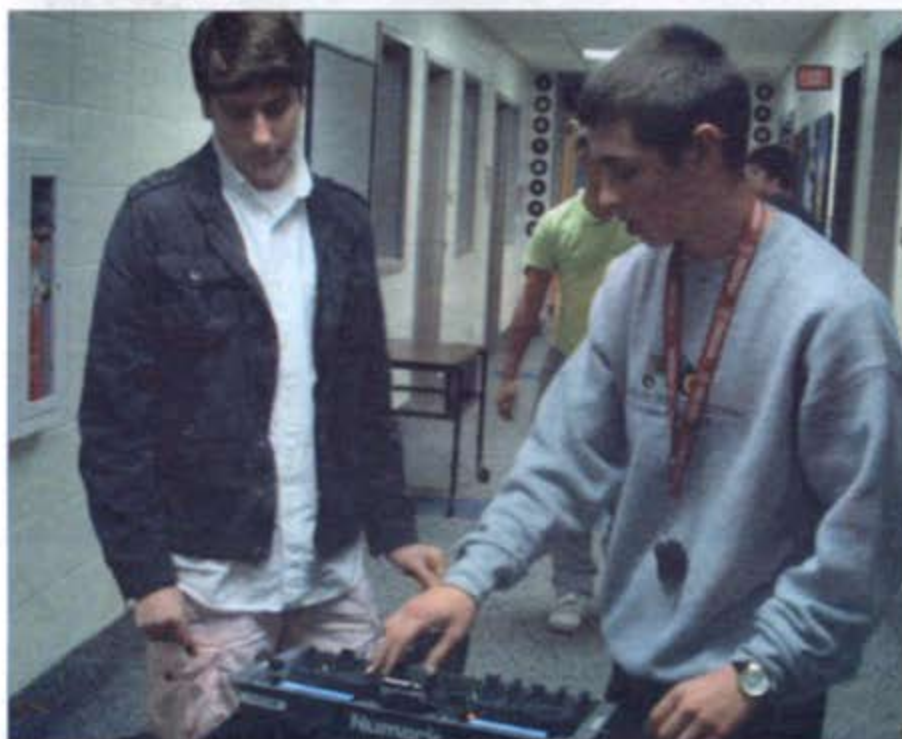
Characteristics: Systematic, Family-oriented, Spiritual, Virtuous

Famous members: Chad Griffin, Peyton Manning

Generation Y (The millennials)

Characteristics: Tolerant, Confident, Proud, Conscientious

Famous members: Justin Bieber, Mark Zuckerberg

DENNIS YANG / GRAPHIC
TIME / SOURCE

WHJE WIZARD: Senior Samuel Pickett (left) instructs another WHJE staff member on using a portable sound system. Along with being a member of WHJE, he is also successful academically.

SWETHA NAKSHATRI / PHOTO

determined to prove myself and do better."

The Future

Graziano said although motivation is shaped by events early on in childhood, self-esteem and goal setting can change as millennials get older.

"When you're older you can pick the environments you want to be in," Graziano said. "If you can pick the environments you want to be in, then they're more compatible with you. So your self-esteem isn't necessarily going to be kicked around as much."

In addition, he said that people tend to get feedback on their goals when they get older, which may affect goal setting. "Some people have very unrealistic expectations about