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English 1001

4th Dec. 2019

Learning From a Peer

You could give a compliment to anyone and more often than not, they will accept it with gratitude. Critiques, on the other hand, are not as appreciated. That is why when I found out we had to review each other's essays, I was less than thrilled. Ironically, it was not receiving critiques I was worried about, it was the giving aspect. I felt that my writing skills were less than par, so who was I to give suggestions? What I did not know at the time was how beneficial reviewing someone else's work could be.

Thanks to the generosity of Shloka Danave, I was able to use my review of her paper, The New Age of Activism, as my example. Although it is not the most stellar review, I was able to give her a lot of positive reinforcement while still some constructive criticism. In one section in particular, I pointed out the improper placement of a sentence. Although the sentence itself was perfect, it was not used in the right section of her essay. Something as simple as this observation made me look at my own paper from a different perspective. I became more aware as to what sounded correct and cohesive to me, but maybe not to another reader. You'll also notice most of my comments are about the flow of her paper. I paid attention to the length of her sentences and whether or not they fit where she originally placed them. Since this was the same essay I was struggling with myself, I was able to take everything I was commenting on her paper and make those same critiques about mine. So although I was reviewing a completely different paper, it felt like I was receiving just as much assistance.

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ENGL 1101

27 September 2019

The New Age of Activism

The topic of the millennial bandwagon is one that has likely been brought up by many, but not fully delved into. The creation of Facebook, Instagram, and mainly Twitter have brought on a level of activism from the youth population that had never been historically seen. Primarily, there has been a large level of dismissal from adults. Millennial activism has been deemed as children acting out by many political officials of the right wing, however the bandwagon of activism hasn't been mentioned by those who disapprove. This paper doesn't agree that activism is children acting out, but that a large portion of millennials lack the knowledge to argue on certain matters. Primarily, this research argues that a large portion of millennial activism is attributed to or triggered by social media. ¹ I like your word use! Most of the knowledge that this generation possesses on the events of the world stems from the controversial posts that appear on the Twitter feed, Instagram Stories and even Snapchat. Millennials would argue that they are fully aware before that participate in activism. While this is true for a portion of millennials, this paper argues that the act of seeking knowledge comes from an interest sparked from a social media post that is being reposted. ² This is evocative but incredibly true An example would be the Syrian Crisis. ³ This sentence is too short. I know you're going into an example but maybe connect it Most millennials gain awareness and begin to speak out on it once a news clip is released of just a glimpse of the brutality that Syrian citizens are experiencing. This is a pattern that follows and is my main focus of research. This research is not going to talk about the perspectives that certain elected officials have on youth activism. Instead, it will focus on researching the widespread knowledge of millennials over the process of the political

system and political issues in general. The topic of whether or not millennials are just children is one that has been exhausted and is not particularly in my area of interest. As someone who spends time on social media, Twitter especially, I'm able to witness the transformation of one person's voice into a, practically, universally-known tweet of activism. I loved this one. It's very very true.⁴ With each

retweet, a new viewer is angered by the issue discussed.⁵ This sentence feels out of place. I like it

but maybe put it in somewhere that works better? The reason behind each person's activism is something that sparks my interest. The sources that are being used are quite variable in their opinions. "Millennial's Talk Politics: A Study of College Student Political Engagement" aims its study towards the efficacy of college students compared to those of Generation X. Several of the sources are published books which discuss the effect of media on the socialization and political development of the millennial generation. The primary focus of this research is on the effect that social media and other outlets have on the level of activism that millennials display.⁶ This is interesting. This

sentence alone makes me want to read your article The thoughts and arguments in these books only support my theory further that millennials' political involvement is contingent upon social media and the broadcasting of gut-wrenching issues that open the hearts of viewers.⁷ a bit wordy, try either

shortening it or breaking it into two sentences.

Bibliography

Novak, Alison. *Media, millennials, and politics: the coming of age of the next political generation*. Lanham, Lexington Books, 2016.

Novak's outline of the current method of political socialization suggest heavy impacts by the media. The book suggests that the theories of political socializing has changed because of the lack of influence parental opinions hold in comparison to the media. As adolescents and as millennials, finding others who share one's opinion online is widely common. With the emergence of new social issues, people have begun to have a larger generational gap (politically) with their parents. Those who identify with millennials are usually those who exclaim political outrage through social media predominantly ⁸ This is really interesting! . The large presence of social media in most millennial's lives is the largest reason for the turning point of the largest means of influence in a person's opinions. (Will insert usefulness portion).

Kiesa, Abby, et al. *Millennials Talk Politics: A Study of College Student Political Engagement*. College Park, CIRCLE Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, 2007.

In hopes of testing the knowledge of the future of American Democracy, Abby Kiesa and other contributors ⁸ perform a study to examine how the political opinions of college students are formed. The study was conducted over 12 United States' universities with 386 participants in 47 focus groups. Through the study, it was discovered that the millennial generation is much more involved than those of generation X. It was also concluded that millennials don't like to watch political

manipulation in debates and other types of political events.⁹ I really like this but does it get more specific? Like what makes a "political manipulation" in debates? Millennials instead seek authentic and raw conversation on political subjects. The comparison between the generations is what highlights the new change of millennial politics (Will insert usefulness portion).

Winograd, Morley. "Chapter 15." *Millennial Makeover*, edited by Michael D. Hais, Rutgers University Press, 2008, pp. 247-269.

Morley Winograd's prediction of American politics in Chapter 15 of *Millennial Makeover: MySpace, YouTube, and the Future of American Politics* involves the breaking down of party lines by millennials. Winograd foresees the main conversation of millennial politics to focus on the importance of individual liberty versus the community's best interest instead of Republicans versus Democrats. Winograd particularly looks at the issues that will be most important to a millennial public policy agenda such as changes in the healthcare and educational systems in order to suggest that, "Millennialist public policy is focused on results, eschewing ideology for pragmatic leadership" (250). (Will insert usefulness portion)

Stephens, Bret. "Millennials: The Feeling is Mutual" *New York Times*. *Gale In Context: Global Issues*, 2019, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A585780190/GIC?u=uga&sid=GIC&xid=e60a828c>. Accessed 28 Sept. 2019.

The specification of Stephens' argument about "old" candidates really fell on Joe Biden. The article goes to discuss how the millennial generation is not supportive of those who possess archaic views. Biden's platform may or may not move away from the values that embody the millennial generational focus, but there was a video that surfaced of him saying that he had absolutely no empathy for the younger generation of millennials. Really like this. Maybe even find a place for it in your proposal? Not sure how but I feel like this would further your argument.¹⁰ The article then goes

on to mention how Bill Clinton won 83% of the African American vote even after using the term reverse racism to label a situation. Biden, however, is not deemed to be as lucky as he is dismissing a generation that is extremely important to the Democratic nomination. Stephens mentions how this generation, “specializes in histrionic self-pity and moral self-righteousness, usually communicated via social media with maximum snark” (Stephens). This wave of social media being used to unite millennials over certain opinions is what is going to be devastating to Biden as opposed to Clinton. (Will insert usefulness portion).

Kosoff, Maya. “When millennials run for office, having grown up online may be their saving grace” The Washington Post. Gale In Context: Global Issues, 2019, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A573149038/GIC?u=uga&sid=GIC&xid=d1563514>. Accessed 28 Sept. 2019.

Kosoff exposes the side of the internet that many do not examine. She begins by discussing how she had been warned by her parents to not post her views and opinions online as it would come back to bite her when she needed a job. Kosoff spins this argument by discussing how having a life online is beneficial for millennials who are running for office. Having a life online displays the struggles and opinions of millennials as they grow from adolescence to adulthood. Kosoff argues that this will resonate with the rest of the millennial voters and in turn be useful instead of expository as it is now. (Will insert usefulness portion).

Brief Reflective Essay

The interest over the millennial bandwagon was sparked by just the continuous viewing of the pops of argument on my Twitter feed. Each day I would see an alarming post about something terribly tragic, or about something that Trump did to upset the American public and justice system. This drew me to consider how many actually understand the choices that Trump makes and how they

affect that legal system and the country. Many just choose to hate him ideologically. ¹¹ This

sentence feels either too short or random. Maybe have it fit better or word it differently This led to a larger question on how much millennials are actually aware of most of the things they retweet or comment on. This research was not meant to discredit the knowledge that millennials have on the political workings of the United States, but more so to understand where the desire for activism comes from in youth that has not been seen before in previous generations. I've attempted to root it back to social media exposure because parental knowledge never affected political efficacy in the past.

The search for sources was almost entirely blind in the beginning. I was just attempting to find something on the topic as I didn't expect anything published would exist on millennial activism. I was pleased to find, through the UGA library website, several sources that attack my research question from all sides. I was even more surprised to discover that there was a study on the level of political involvement compared to Generation X. There were challenges in my research which came entirely from the books. After finding books that discuss the focal point of my research, it was difficult to sift through the chapters and find the one that touches my point. With each chapter, some would beat around the bush and maybe mention what I am researching, but once I found the chapter of focus it became simpler. Through this research process, I have been pleasantly surprised by the amount of resources that are available on this topic. Seeing as I am researching something fairly new, I was pleased to see that there were thousands of resources on even the point of millennial activism.

While I first believed that a majority of millennial activism stems from a shallow level of knowledge, I came to learn that the millennial activism, while it does stem from social media, is filled with genuine worry and emotion on the political points that plague our news screens. (Part 3 is Unfinished).

