



## It's Not Them: It's You

**Erin Morris Miller**, Bridgewater College

A week does not pass without my hearing about the apparently sorry state of the current crop of students. They are lazy, disengaged, clueless and so on. It is the dusty trope that the old do not appreciate the young.

In a trip through the literature and news of the past, you will find Generation X described as underachieving, angry, psychologically damaged **slackers** who were indifferent to learning, brazenly rude, entitled, **unprofessional whiners**. Millennials were called "**Generation Whine**" and described as self-centered, unmotivated, disrespectful, depressed, anxious, disloyal, **entitled cynics** who were so overindulged and protected by their parents that they were **incapable of working without constant hand holding**.

If this all sounds familiar, it should. Professors now bemoan the current crop of Gen Z students who will not **read**, cannot handle **stress**, procrastinate, lack basic academic skills, refuse to engage in class, are **psychologically needy** and are more interested in preparation for a career than appreciating knowledge.