

Volunteering Across the Generations

(Hello, I'm Jay.)

Assumptions

- U.S. and Western Culture
- Major Generalizations
- Sociology
- Pseudoscience
- Marketing

Who's Here

- Silent Generation
- Baby Boomers
- Generation X
- Millennials
- Generation Z

Voluntired



The condition in which you continually agree to volunteer for various events to the point of complete mental and physical exhaustion

“Between the school fundraiser, the cancer awareness rally and planning the 4H field trip, I am **VOLUNTIERED!**”

Discussion

What about your generation do you identify with?

What generalizations make you bristle?

Silent Generation – 30M

- Born 1925-1946 (Age 93-72)
- The Great Depression
- World War II
- Traditionalists
- Job tenure

Baby Boomers – 80M

- Born 1946-1964 (Age 72-54)
- Civil Rights
- Vietnam, Cold War
- Adolescents, Workaholics
- Hours worked

Voluntainment



When you volunteer at a function or event, and are entertained at the same time.

“While participating in a charity fund-raiser that featured live Classic Rock bands, the numerous volunteers were entertained while performing their duties. The act of doing so is voluntainment.”

Generation X – 50M

- Born 1964-1980 (Age 54-38)
- Latchkey Kids
- AIDS
- Distrust institutions
- Smarter not harder

Millennials – 70M

- Born 1981-1994 (Age 38-24)
- Digital Natives
- Student Loans
- 9/11 and Terrorism
- Constant feedback
- Everybody wins

Volunterrorism



Annoying people in the service of a good cause, preferably by calling them while they are eating or having fun and making them feel bad and asking for money.

“I was getting hot and heavy with my GF when Sean Penn came by to volunterrorize me about genocide in Darfur. Needless to say, the moment was ruined.”

Generation Z – 80M

- Born after 1994 (Age 24-0)
- Great Recession
- Social Media Natives
- Open Books
- Instant Gratification
- Populism? Equality?

Exercise

Work with a partner to describe a volunteer from the generation you are assigned.

Exercise

You're the boss and your team includes one member from each generation. You have to plan and execute a fundraising event. Assign roles.