Today’s Technology has created an Impersonal Generation with a Clear Disrespect for Life that has Inherited the Right to Bear Arms

**Tag Words:** Millennials, disorderly conduct, youth crimes, school shootings, technology, black lives matter, gun control, gun laws, disrespect, mass murders

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**Summary:** The newest generations’ lack of respect and value for others has created the need for stronger gun control laws due to the increase in shootings and aggressive behavior caused by young adults and even children. Our Founding Fathers Didn’t Anticipate That (The Right to Bear) Arms would be in the Hand of Those that have a Clear Disrespect for Life. More specific and stronger laws regarding gun control should be put in place in every state or nationally. Although some states have adopted strong gun control laws, others have not, allowing the crossing of state lines, reducing the impact of state regulations. Firearm accessories, like long capacity magazines, also need more regulation. Better gun control nationally will hopefully reduce/stop the rising number of mass murders frequently committed by young people.

**Video Link:** https://youtu.be/jSl1eBb5MaE

**Technology has Created a Disrespectful Generation**

The “Millennial” and “X” generations are composed of people that were born from 1990 until now. This generation is so far the largest living generation and thus it is believed to have the capacity to be the most influential generation of all. It was speculated that this generation was likely going to achieve greatness and change the world for the better thanks to the many technological advances, large number of individuals and available resources. Although there are those that will rise to the occasion, there are many that will either have little impact in their communities while some of the more entitled and angry individuals that have a general disrespect for their elders, authorities, and life in general, will negatively impact their community. The replacement of human connection with hand-held and other technological devices may be a major driver in this loss of respect. As technology is here to stay, reactionary and precautionary measures need to be promoted that once again value the human connection and the respect for others.

**Growing up with Technology**

The Millennials and Generation X have indeed become some of the most influential groups of all time due to the increase of technological devices like computers, tablets, cell phones, e-readers, etc. but mostly because of the technology’s increase of affordability and availability. Nowadays a person can become famous overnight by either just posting something on social media or sharing it through public websites like YouTube. One can now easily receive feedback from others right from the comfort of your home even from total strangers. Greater amounts of information can be seen and shared throughout the world in minutes which has increased
conversations and collaborations across countries. Everyone that has a mobile device can now learn, research, communicate, and share experiences with just about anyone and anything. The power that technology has created is in the numbers, that is, if enough people like something a person has created and shared, they will also share it and the sharing can result in an avalanche reaction which can lead to fame.

Nevertheless the power that technology has created can also be used in negative ways. The greater amount of friends one can make internationally, and locally through the social media websites does not necessarily mean that people are better equipped to deal with face-to-face relationships. Everything seems easier and more covert through the screens of technological device which can lead to lower of inhibitions and result in actions that one may not perform otherwise. One may believe that this will lead to better self-confidence and human interactions but the total opposite is true, people tend to focus more on the screen and digitalize conversations because they feel easier than in person conversations. What it is left in its place as a result is a group of people being physically together but spending more time using and playing with their devices than interacting with the people near them. In addition to awkward in person situations we have the other side of what all the attention in screen can bring. Just as fast as a person can become famous he/she can be completely ignored or forgotten. The negative reviews and opinions of others can have a terrible effect in the individual as well. In accordance to the large amount of information being shared, and the easiness with which this can be done, people have started to focus more on themselves as well as others. A person can find him/herself pushing towards perfection or at least the appearance of it while looking at other’s flaws in order to increase one’s self-esteem. An error or a flaw can therefore be exploited by others and used against them. Actors/actresses, singers, news reporters, and other people working in the media are especially scrutinized for flaws because they are expected to be perfect while at the same time believed to be just human in order for people to be able to relate to them. With all this scrutiny going on, individuals can become completely self-absorbed and selfish, which is why a decrease in social cohesiveness is on the decline and have thus been named the “We” generation.

**Priorities and Values**

During these later generations a change in priorities can be clearly seen when compared to earlier generations. In a study conducted by Twenge, Campbell, and Freeman, Millennials and GenX’ers rated money and community leadership, living close to parents and relatives, and responsibility for work and others as more important than Boomers did at the same age. They rated developing meaningful philosophy of life, finding purpose and meaning, keeping up to date with political affairs, and becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment as less important. Since 1989 the importance of being well financially has being ranked number one which a significantly raise from number eight at earlier years. A decrease in concern for others as well as likeliness of working in social service organizations or other jobs related to social work show a decrease in empathy for others which is correlated with the increase seen in narcissistic behavior.

People born in the latest generations show a decrease in all the values older generations held as important with an especial emphasis on respect for others. The lack of face-to-face interactions, the decrease in empathy, the increase in narcissistic behavior, the increase in value for superficial things, and many others, have led young people to diminish the value of personal relationships.
In order to accommodate and help young people interact with one another, environments based on casualness and friendship have increased and while these environments may help young people open up to others, the risk of crossing the line towards disrespect is great. Casualness can lead young people to see their elders as friends and increase their physical interactions with them as a result, but it can also lead to young people treating their elders exactly like friends, including the dismissal of advice and authority.

The latest generation believes that they can do anything and this belief can lead them to disregard anything and anyone that opposes this belief, even if it is for a good reason. Parents have become either just friends or enemies to the latest generations. Parents are friends when they give and agree to anything their children want and enemies when they refuse to do so. Teachers are just people trying to make them do things they don’t want and interfering with their time with technology to the younger generations. Any additional family members or older people trying to advise young people are just nuisances that “should mind their own business.” The belief that they are the only ones that can do anything in regards to their life has lead them to grow up without respect for authority or their elders.

The change of priorities through generations can also be seen in the impact it has in relationships, in the environment and in values. Along with the lack of willingness to have conversations “the old fashion way”, the latest generations also demonstrated a lack of personal effort to help the environment. These later generations showed a decrease in efforts to cut down in electricity use to save energy, reduce heat usage during winter, recycle, or being involved in programs to help clean the environment. Nature and more philosophical ways of living toward a higher purpose is what drove earlier generations instead of the “cold and hard” reasons related to technology that the latest generations seem to hold dear.

**The causes and their results**

The latest generations tend to be overconfident and regard themselves as all-knowing thanks to the help of technology. They will not rely on parents’ or elders’ advice or opinions because they have the internet for that. With just a few clicks, anything they are curious about can be revealed right on the palm of their hands thanks to cellphones, laptops and the grand invention of the internet. The easily accessible information therefore can lead to the belief that friends who are also well tech-connected have better knowledge of things than non-tech savvy parents and elders. Young people do not only believe other people their age are knowledgeable but that just because they read about something on the internet themselves are also well equipped to advise and inform others about certain topics. This wrongful idea makes people’s self-esteem boost and in turn increase the use of technology so they can keep ‘enlightening’ others in topics found on the internet.

**Parents as Self-Esteem Boosters**

The self-esteem boosting started in the 1970s believing that it will improve chances of success in children and young adults and while high self-esteem is great for getting a job it is not so great for keeping it or maintaining healthy relationships. Parents may tend to tell their children they are special and they can accomplish anything they want to if they just set their minds to. While these type of words may encourage children to do just that they do not teach them how to do it. Children do not need just words of encouragement especially children born in the latest
generations, they need tools and advice on how to accomplish their goals. When a child grows up
disappointed. The disappointment in turn can result in many different reactions; some
the child grows up believing they can get anything they want but do not have the necessary skills to do it they can
may result in anger at the world and those around preventing them from getting what they want,
others may result in depression and loss in confidence which makes people stop trying, and
others, the strongest, will keep trying until they succeed.

Technology in the Hands of the Very Young
Consumerism is a strong advocate for technology use. Nowadays technology has made its way
into becoming part of the latest generation’s culture. Most children and young adults expect to
have a technological device as soon as the age of 12 if not younger. Cell phones themselves have
become a necessity than even the government has decided to provide them for low income
families. Technology is everywhere and with it the power to manipulate young people into
believing they are doing things out of choice when in reality there was never a real choices.
Media has created the parameters for perfection and what a good life should be and young people
are the ones that will believe them faster and more easily than their elders due to the lack of
sense of self and connections with other things like nature instead of materialistic values.

Parents and Children Spending Less Quality Time Together
The change in parenting styles have had an effect in how young people see relationships and
authorities as well. Due to financial problems more and more families need at least two incomes
or more to survive and have the essentials. In most families both parents end up working which
leaves the children either with strangers or with extended family members that would just place
them in front of the television. Parents that are stressed or need to rest and relax after work will
also end up most of the time placing their children’s education at the hands of technology. Once
they grow up, the children will still be allowed to do as they please without being checked or
guided due to the extra work and tiredness of parents working double or triple shifts. No matter
the reason the end results are the same, children and teenagers end up relying and feeling closer
to technology than they do to their parents or even their friends. Not only family time is being
replaced by technologic devices but values, culture and traditions are replaced as well.
One tradition in particular is disappearing from families, family dinner. Children rarely have
dinner with their parents anymore which, while it may seem a simple and non-important event to
some, it is depriving children and their parents of many cultural and life values and tools. Family
dinners offer the opportunity to communicate with one another, it is where children may first
develop their communication skills and learn respect for others as well as good manners. The
chance of sharing grievances, accomplishments, or just news with others not only creates family
bonds but also allows people to de-stress, solve problems, and get guidance.
Family dinners are the first sample of human interaction children have before they interact with
others in the same setting. It is where they develop social skills, learn good manners, etiquette,
humility, social rules and cues, but more importantly, is where the learn respect. Family dinners
offer the opportunity for parents to show their role as guides, friends, and authority. The view of
authority and respect for others set during family gatherings can reduce the abuse of drugs,
vandalism and other crimes as well as increase self-esteem, school performance, and
relationships with others.
Parents that are spending time working and trying to build a better future for their children are not spending time teaching their children values, culture, or traditions. Children are growing up without a sense of where they come from, of their history and without the traditions their families were built on. Without these important life components children and young adults will end up adopting others’ or creating their own values, culture and tradition. This lack of connection with their love ones and their roots leave children and young adults vulnerable to peer pressure, media brainwashing and predators. Media is one of the biggest teachers for impressionable young people. Companies spend millions in advertisements that are sure to tell their consumers how to live and their own meanings of happiness and what is valuable or not.

**Young Adults Returning to the Nest Egg**

Young people can be very determined when they want something but can also be seen as lazy and uncaring when they finally give up on their quest or try to adjust to the situations in which they find themselves. Some people believe that the latest generations refuse to grow up because the amount of young adults living with their parents, carrying heavy debt, and postponing marriage and children, have increased. One of the greatest culprits in why young people will behave this way is the economy. While the amount of college students enrolled and graduating with a degree has increased over the years so has tuition and the price of living. “Average debt for public college students doubled between 1996 and 2006.” This debt causes college graduates to re-think living on their own and instead decide to go back or stay living with their parents in order to be able to pay up the debt. Financial problems can also affect important and expensive live decisions such as marriage and having children. Some may say that it is not that young people don’t want to grow up, is just that they can’t. The great recession has left our youth with great financial burdens just as the ideas of education and fulfilling one’s dreams are settling. The frustration and change or postponement of plans are a must for many young people. (4)

**Increase in Crime Committed by Young Adults**

Everything that is learned at home is put to practice in other settings, and everything that is learned in other settings is brought home. Ultimately home is the place where children would define what is right and what is wrong depending on the responses they receive from their parents due to their behaviors, and is what will shape their conduct most of the time. Recent events have raised concern specifically to youth’s view and lack of respect for authority. Events like “Deltopia Party”, “Michael Brown protest”, “Pumpkin fest”, and many others show how disrespectful youth has become. Complete disrespect for authorities and people in general resulted in vandalism, stabbings, shootings, and physical aggressions during the mentioned events. Some of these events were disguised as protests to an unfair justice system others were just the results of unruly and aggressive behavior brought about by the consumption of alcohol and abuse of drugs.

The increase of crimes committed and aggressiveness shown by young adults can be partially attributed to media. Incomplete or manipulated stories told and broadcasted through television and the internet can cause young adults to become aggressive if they are made to think they are being wronged. An example of these occurrences is the “Black lives Matter” group, which was founded with the purpose to shed light into the injustices committed against black people and get people to unite in order to create a more just society. Sadly some of the rallies and events organized under the name of this group have ended in various crimes committed like vandalism,
shooting of police officers, assaults, and many others. These crimes have affected many people and in various ways including the young adults committing these crimes. Violence and aggressiveness only calls for more violence and aggressiveness. This conduct is not sending the right message to children or to other young adults because it is not the way to solve things, instead it is just creating a cultural separation and hatred for cultures and races.

**Increase in Fatal Shootings Committed by Young Adults**
In more individual cases, schools shootings have become an increasing worry. Since 2013, there have been around 158 shootings in the Unites States alone and seem to be increasing every year since then. Many factors can be held liable as the cause but in the end it is clear that only the lack of respect or considerations for life could bring a person, let alone a young adult, to shoot innocent children and teachers in an institution dedicated for learning. There have been 97 school shootings in the last two years in 33 different states and fifty three percent of these shooting occurred in K-12 schools. In K-12 school shooting seventy percent were performed by a minor.

**Community Action: Precautionary vs Reactionary Fixes to Our New Disrespectful World**
There are certain things that can be done to right the wrong the misuse of technology and the loss of respect has caused. Some of these things are of a more familiar nature and start with how children are raised. The practice of good conduct and specifically the creation of emotional and cultural ties to family members, friends, and people in general will result in an understating of respect and value for people’s lives. These practices are only for precaution and will prevent future growth of disrespected in the following generations but do not solve the problems that are already present.

To solve the problems already in place one must focus on specifics. For example, the worst possible consequence of lack of respect is the lack of respect for life. Due to the access young adults have to firearms and the lack of respect for life, it is very easy to take the life of a person. In this case, one can mostly focus on preventing young adults or children the access to firearms and firearm accessories.

**Precautionary Solutions: Stress the importance of the human connection in everyday life**
Teaching respect is very important because it can reduce the number of crimes committed. One good way to teach respect is to teach the value of life by creating bonds and feelings for others. If people, especially children and young adults, spend most of their time interacting with others they will grow to care about others and will be less likely to end a life they value. Spending more time with family members doing enjoyable things like having dinner together, learning new things together, or just enjoying a nice day talking, walking, playing, will teach children the value of in person interactions and the value of life.

Technology has united people across countries but it has done so by creating a new way of interaction, one that focuses mostly on time spent in front of a screen rather than in the physical world. When most of the interactions between people are through a screen, the human value decreases because these interactions lack a true connection between people. A screen cannot teach about social cues, emotional involvement, or true human connection because it lacks the actual physical presence of another person. Interactions through technology give complete control to people about what they want to face and what they want to avoid, thus creating a lack
of emotional teachings. When people are faced to face and arguments arise they are forced to acknowledge each other’s feelings and point of view which results in a more deep understanding of another’s concerns and points if view. These type of understanding is not possible through the use of technology because people have the option of just disconnecting and putting the piece of technology away thus ignoring other’s feelings and not learning how to successfully interact with others.

Therefore in order to teach respect one must learn to value life and nature first. This is only possible by interaction with others in person, without any technological device or any other barrier that can prevent the formation of emotional and psychological bonds between people. A connection with nature can also help teach humility and respect but this connection is only possible by spending time outdoors, by learning about everything about one’s surroundings and are about what is keeping one alive.

**Reactionary Solutions: There’s Nothing Worse Than Loss of Life - Need for Gun Control**

With guns in the hands of those that have no respect for other human beings, we, as a nation, need to take back control - as this is out of control. Our founding fathers belief that Citizens should have the “Right to Bear Arms” was written in the time of need and development. During this time when everything about our nation was being figured out and the threat of British oppression was the main concern, the need for bearing arms in order to defend one’s family and belongings is what brought about this right. It was a time without structure, without a strong, organized army or police force and everyone had to defend themselves and their loved ones. It was also a time with principles, with respect, with value for life and nature; a time where people were united towards a common goal.

Many things have changed since the time this right was written. Public and national defenses are more organized, the threat of British troops invading homes has disappeared, and more importantly the need for firearms in every home has lessened greatly. Nevertheless, the “Right to Bear Arms,” is still a very popular right and many people will find it unconstitutional to eradicate it, even though its eradication will prevent or at least reduce shootings. Therefore, the tight control of firearms and their accessories will have to compensate for the problems this right has brought. Many of the recent shootings have ended in a greater number of casualties and deaths thanks to the new accessories invented for firearms for example, high capacity magazines. Many States have adopted laws regulating the control of weaponry and studies show that these laws have helped reduce the number of murders committed with the use of firearms. For example, New Jersey requires thorough background checks, waiting periods, limits the number of firearms per person, prohibits the transfer or possession of assault weapons and large capacity magazines, prohibits individuals convicted of misdemeanors to possess firearms, and many others. Unfortunately, there are also many states that have not adopted these laws, for example New Mexico and Mississippi which makes it very easy for murderers and mentally unstable people to obtain firearms.

National laws similar to New Jersey’s for gun control should be put in effect in order to reduce the number of murders committed.
Dear Senator Christopher Bateman,

I am writing to you in order to receive your cooperation and help with a topic of utmost importance for the nation, the laws regarding the possession of arms. I am appealing not only to your position as one of our representatives but as a community and family member because the youth of our nation are the most vulnerable and at the same time the most dangerous when it comes to gun regulation.

With all due respect to our Founding Fathers who wrote the Right to Bear Arms, they should have been more specific. This right has many loopholes that can be use by murderers to obtain fire arms and going on killing sprees. It has affected our children and young adults greatly and not just because they are being victims of these criminal acts but because they have ended being the ones causing these heinous crimes as well. Over half of the shooting occurring in our country are school shooting and 97% of these shooting have been performed by a minor. It is true that our Founding Fathers could not have possibly foresaw the disrespectful society which would inherit this right, therefore it is up to the appointed government to amend this wrong.

Stronger laws regarding firearms and their accessories control should be put in effect nationally not just left for each state to decide because mass murders are of national concern. What good is it for states like New Jersey to have very heavy gun control laws if a person can just travel to another state and obtain a weapon anyway? In a society where children and young adults have grown up without morals or respect for others and where the right to bear arms is being used as an excuse to obtain weapons to hurt others, the heavy control of firearms is a necessity. Laws preventing antisocial people or people prove to aggressive behavior from obtaining firepower, preventing children to have access to guns, preventing the presence of firearms in public places, and more importantly preventing the loss of life at the hands of psychopaths with guns, must exist nationally.

I urge you to please take action and promote stronger laws into action regarding gun control and help keep this nation’s youth innocent and away from harm’s way. A reply to this letter sharing your thoughts on the issue will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Fabiola Pincay
Biochemistry, Bachelor’s Degree, Rutgers University

It’s Not all Negative. How the Bravery of Millennials Can Positively Affect Community

The latest generations are not the end of the world as we know it as some might believe but are rather a change in it. Their strong wills and disregard for rules have led them to create and discover wonderful things that others might never have due to ingrained morals and believes. Their stubbornness and fearlessness have led them to places other generations never thought of going. People born in the latest generations may be seen as disrupt full, lazy, disrespectful, and too disconnected but they have overcome many of the problems older generations faced. Long distance communications being one of them thanks to cell phones, computers, and of course the
internet. A very important social issue that older generations faced whether aware or not was the frustration people felt by not being able to be themselves. Culture, traditional and social norms were very heavily enforced that most people who fell outside them were harassed and/or ignored which is why most people in this situation repressed their real selves. The latest generations have overcome this due to their self-confidence, high self-esteem, and individualization. Younger people are more accepting of others’ differences and believes because they too expect to be accepted. Millennials embrace change and diversity rather than run away from it due to ignorance or fear, this has led them to learn more about others and themselves.

The latest generations are not afraid of trying new things, or create them, and throwing the rule books out the window just to embrace life and achieve their dreams. While there are many things reproachable about young people, their accomplishments and courage should be part of the story as well. They are creators, pioneers, developers, and very resourceful. They have the backing of technology and know how to use it to create bigger and better things for humanity and while they may be late to bloom it is quite possible they will become one of the most beneficial generations for the world. They certainly believe in themselves thanks to all those words of encouragement they grew up with, why shouldn’t elders believe in them as well? Lack of respect aside they are pretty loyal and understanding when it comes to physical and emotional problems.

References
3 Gentile, B., Campbell, W. K., & Twenge, J. M. (2012). The generational change model: How culture and individuals produce generational changes over time.
Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Gun control has become a massive problem due to the increase of school shooting seen across the country. This issue is mainly hard to solve due to the right written by this nation’s founding fathers. With all due respect to our Founding Fathers who wrote the Right to Bear Arms, they should have been more specific. This right has many loopholes that can be use by murderers to obtain fire arms and going on killing sprees. It has affected our children and young adults greatly and not just because they are being victims of these criminal acts but because they have ended being the ones committing these heinous crimes as well. Over half of the shooting occurring in our country are school shooting and 97% of these shooting have been performed by a minor. It is true that our Founding Fathers could not have possibly foreseen the disrespectful society which would inherit this right, therefore it is up to the appointed government to amend this wrong.

Stronger laws regarding firearms and their accessories control should be put in effect nationally not just left for each state to decide because mass murders are of national concern. What good is it for states like New Jersey to have very heavy gun control laws if a person can just travel to another state and obtain a weapon anyway? In a society where children and young adults have grown up without morals or respect for others and where the right to bear arms is being used as an excuse to obtain weapons to hurt others, the heavy control of firearms is a necessity. Laws preventing antisocial people or people prove to aggressive behavior from obtaining firepower, preventing children to have access to guns, preventing the presence of firearms in public places, and more importantly preventing the loss of life at the hands of psychopaths with guns, must exist nationally.

I encourage the reader to write to the senators, and assemblymen and women about this issue, to share this information with the community and to take action in order to protect the innocence and lives of this nation’s youth.

Sincerely,

Fabiola Pincay
Biochemistry, Bachelor’s degree 2016, Rutgers University