



Digital Natives (And Other Mythical Beasts)

Susan M. Zvacek, PhD
CollegeTeachingCoach.com

The Legend of the Digital Native



Marc
Prensky

Those who have grown up surrounded by computers and who are assumed to be tech-savvy. (They're not.)

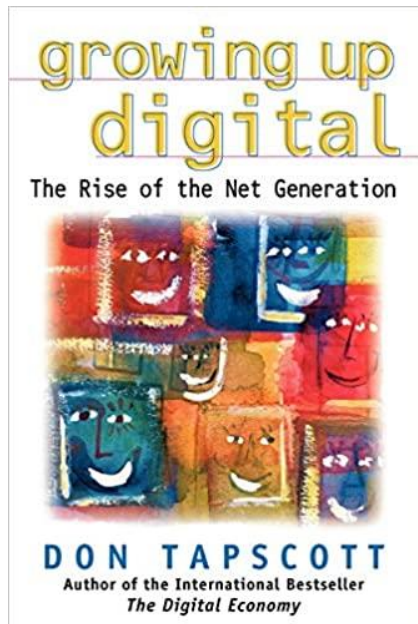
As a result, they "think and process information fundamentally differently from their predecessors."

(Nope.)

"They are native speakers of technology, fluent in the digital language of computers, video games, and the Internet."

(Not really.)

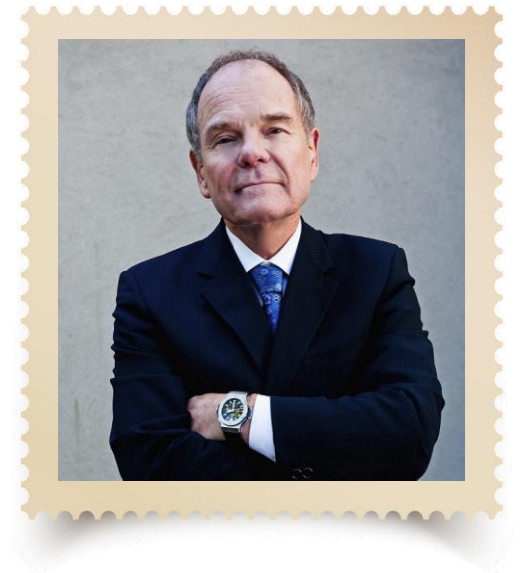
The Legend of the Digital Native



“Compared to their parents, today’s youth are more curious, self-reliant, contrarian, high in self-esteem, and global in orientation.” (Really?)

“The Net Generation knows to be skeptical whenever they’re online” and “‘Net Geners’ are the new scrutinizers.”

(No and no.)



Reality Check!

- No evidence of generational differences in tech skills.
- Most computer users engage in relatively basic activities with technology tools.
- Much of the research about digital literacy skills relies on self-reported levels of proficiency.
- The move to online instruction during the pandemic made it clear that there is significant variability in tech skills.

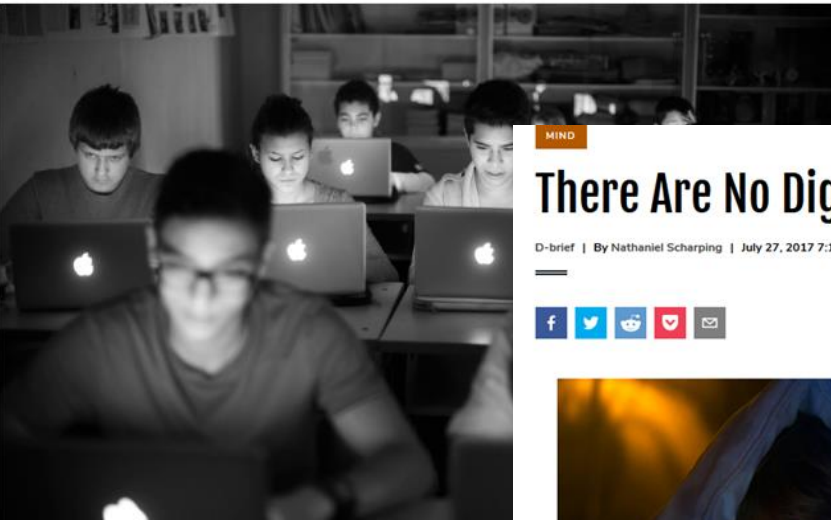


The digital native is a myth

The younger generation uses technology in the same ways as older people — and is no better at multitasking.

25 July 2017

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MIND

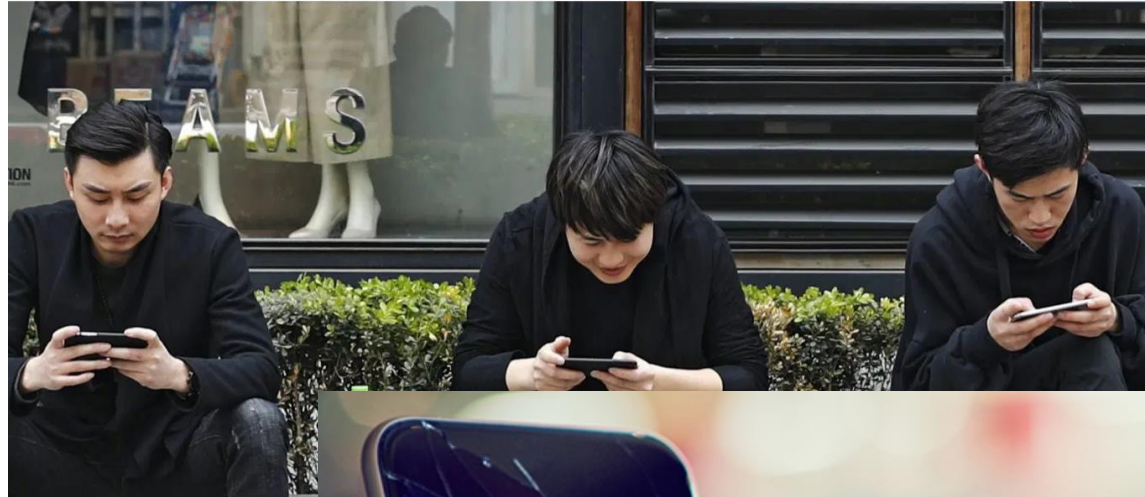
There Are No Digital Natives

D-brief | By Nathaniel Scharping | July 27, 2017 7:15 PM



MYTH BUSTERS

New research shows “digital natives” are no better at technology than the rest of us



Performance, Recruitment

Digital natives, and the death of another millennial myth

By Girard Dorney, HRM Online

4 August, 2017

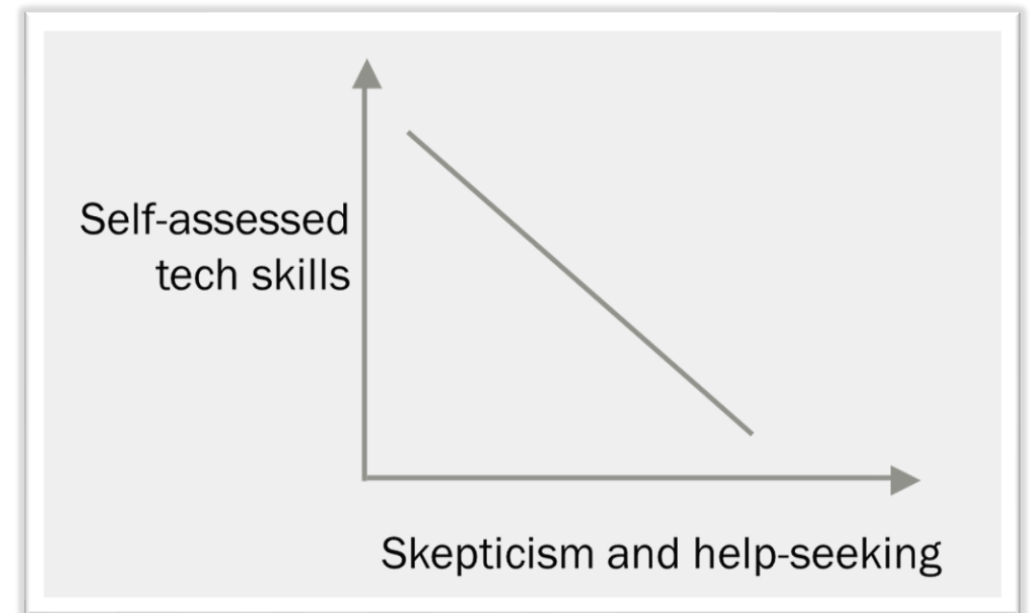
Why This Matters

Belief in such myths can influence funding and policy decisions

“... focusing on a proportionally small group of technically adept young people, they help line the pockets of ed-tech consultants, and in the process make education about data privacy and security seem unnecessary.”

(Sadowski, 2014)

Students who believe this myth are less likely to seek help and be skeptical about online information.



Popular Myths Teaching & Learning Edition



What's Your Learning Style?

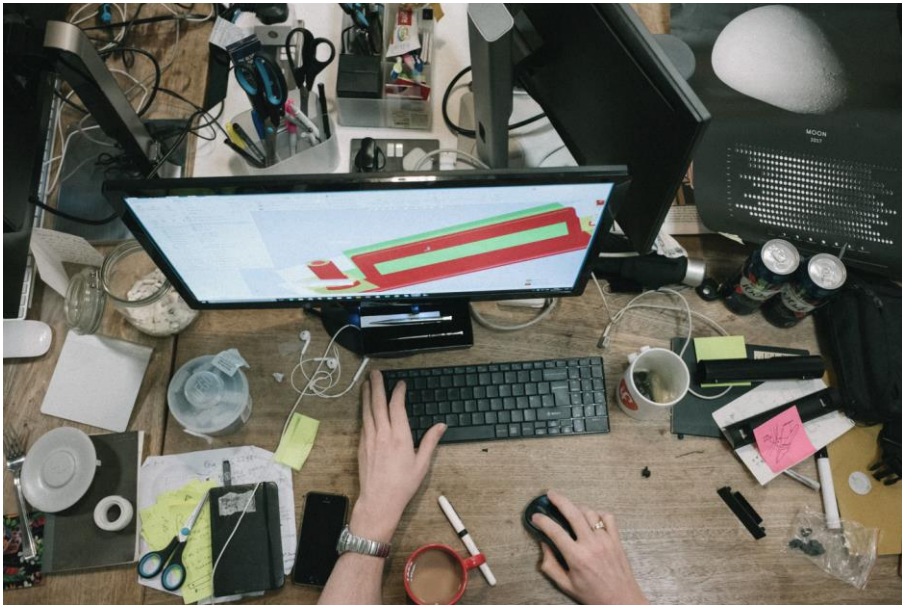
The "Learning" Pyramid



Source: National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine



Multi-Taskers



Multi-tasking:

The appearance of doing two (or more) things at the same time

Tasks that require effort and concentration

Context/task switching

Why This Matters

- Causes anxiety
- Interferes with working memory
- Results in more mistakes

Multitasking (especially with tech devices) negatively affects:

- Study habits
- Grades
- Learning
- Overall GPA



Learning Styles

A preference for one type of stimuli (e.g., visual or auditory) when learning

Proponents believe that this influences how a learner perceives, understands, and stores information

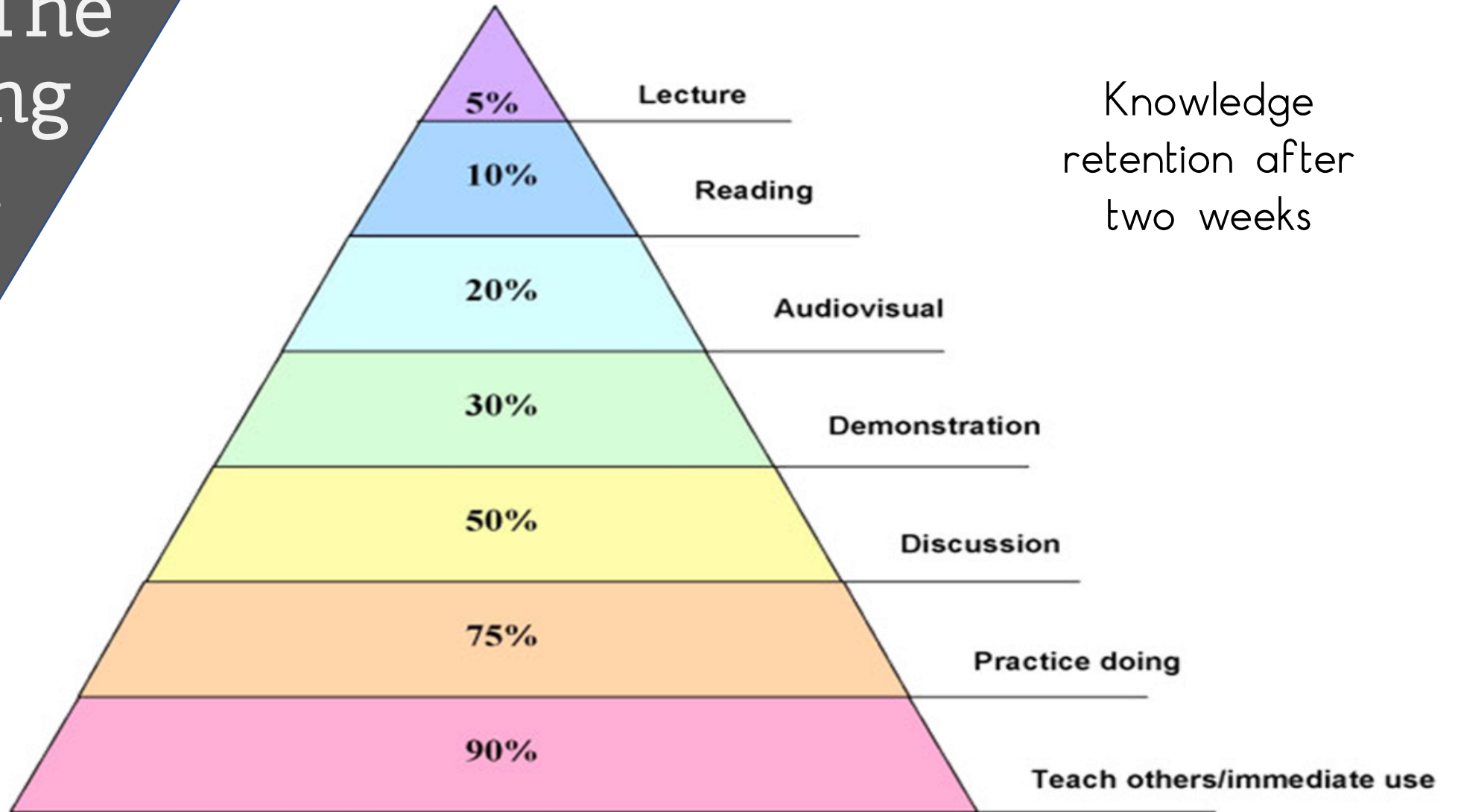
Why This Matters

- There is no evidence that learning styles exist.
- There is no evidence that matching instruction to preferred medium improves learning

Should we label our students?

Should we encourage them to label themselves?

The Learning Pyramid



Knowledge retention after two weeks

Source: National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine

Why This Matters

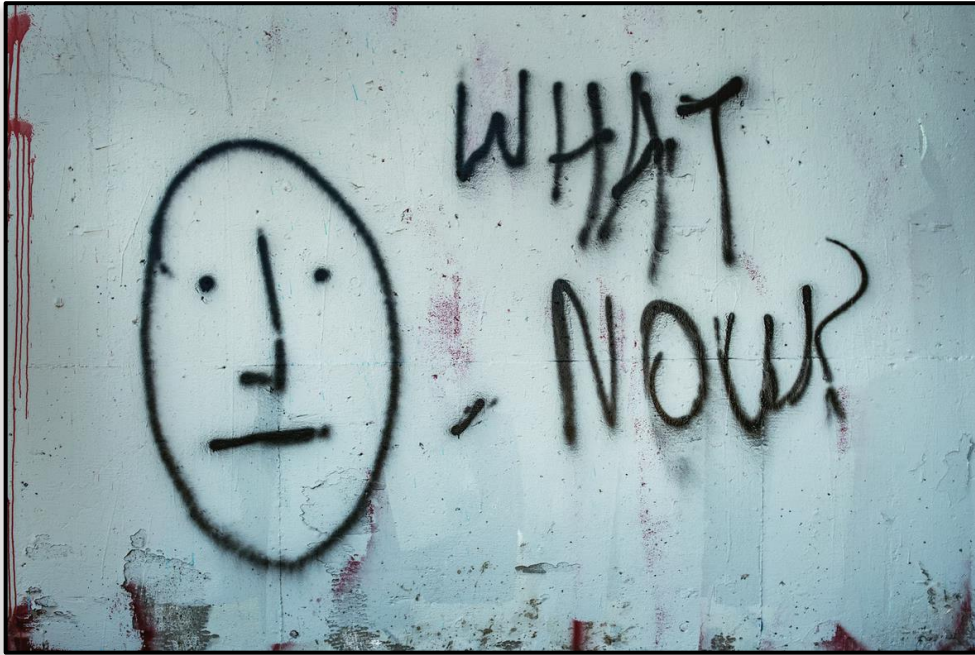
- Suggests that teachers should avoid some types of instruction, regardless of desired learning outcomes
- Encourages potentially ineffective strategies
- Promotes a simplistic idea of the type of “remembering” that is valuable

Why Do We Believe These Myths?

- We're not familiar with the research.
- They're intuitively attractive and believable.
- They provide a simple answer to a complex problem or topic.
- They may be compatible with what we already believe or have observed.



How Can We Conquer Mythical Beasts?



- Practice, model, and encourage skepticism.
- Reward curiosity.
- Question statements/arguments that seem simplistic or exaggerated, even if you agree with them.



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