



**DEBATE:**

**DIGITAL NATIVES v.  
DIGITAL IMMIGRANTS**

**I. Digital Natives:**

The idea of a new generation of students entering the Education System immersed in technology. They are equipped with sophisticated technology skills and learning preferences.

**A. CON's of being a 'DN'**

1. Students will become lazy and possibly disinterested in learning as they have been spoiled through a variety of options.
2. Students will have a higher level of expectations for teachers to to be constantly chasing children's attention through technology
3. Learning may lose its authenticity and students 'Thinking for themselves' is diminished as technology is providing this

**a. learning through game-based activities**

**B. Learning styles and preferences of a 'DN':**

1. -accustomed to learning at high speed
2. -multiprocessing; they do several things simultaneously
3. making random connections, processing visual and dynamic information

**C. PRO's of Being a 'DN':**

1. As a result of their upbringing and experiences with technology, digital natives have

particular learning preferences or styles that differ from earlier generations of students.

2. Young people of the digital native generation possess sophisticated knowledge of and skills with information technologies.

3. 'fluent in the digital language of computers, video games and the Internet'

## II. Digital Immigrants:

The idea of individuals born prior to 1980.

this section of the population, which includes most teachers, lacks the technological fluency of the digital natives and finds the skills possessed by them almost completely foreign.

### A. CON's of being a 'DI'

1. disparity between the technological skills and interests of new students and the limited and unsophisticated technology use by educators is claimed to be creating alienation and disaffection among students

2. education must fundamentally change to meet the needs of these 'digital natives'.

3. 'There is growing appreciation that the old approach [of didactic teaching] is ill-suited to the intellectual, social, motivational, and emotional needs of the new generation'

4. Today's students are no longer the people our educational system was designed to teach by DI

### B. PRO's 's of being a 'DI'

1. Students are engaged in the learning experiences provided by Digital Immigrants and not distracted by technology

2. Students are 'Thinking for themselves'

a. Students are developing higher mental computation. Due to technology, students have become dependent on 'Spell-Check' and materials such as calculators to do their 'thinking'. Through Digital Immigrant learning- students are able to think for themselves.

3. students understand learning processes and are able to engage in their own individual learning. Here, they are immersed in a higher level of learning and understanding of individual achievements when acquiring new concepts.

### C. Learning preferences and styles of a 'DI'

1. Posters- reiterating self exploration and knowledge of concepts

**2. Blackboards and whiteboards provide group comprehension and working together**

**3. Books- having to research own knowledge and gain a greater/wider and broader understanding of a variety of concepts. This expands children interests and actively engage in the learning experiences, rather than passively obtaining and viewing information**