What you were then Accountability Partner: Chloe Barteau

Part I

Generational differences are like cars. They’re not often discussed but they have utility. Analysis that looks further into intergenerational relations is necessary in order have a broader view of the purchasing and behavioral habits of different age groups. While a sample size of 3 is not statistically significant, it’s a good start in order to form better opinions about intergenerational relations.

Personal Answers

1. White Plains NY Westchester
2. School in similar classes
3. Cell phones were starting to take off, The mortgage crash of 2008, Obama was elected.
4. We were doing alright. My mother was involved in the stock market but everyone was losing money so we were relatively fine.
5. My IPod touch, hanging out on trampolines with friends and my family

Mother Answers

1. Mostly in Massachusetts after Cuba
2. Mostly at work. Moved around too much to form in childhood
3. Middle class to upper middle by end of childhood with 2 professional parents
   1. My grandma was a Math professor at Nichols College and my grandpa was a chemist for Monsanto.
4. Being part of a great movement for social justice, not concerned about one's status but part of something big and important.
   1. My mom was a heavily involved in anti-Vietnam war protests.
5. Having a world view, not worried about what college or job but about the issues of the day and being a part of trying for change.

Former Boss’s Answers

1. Pearland TX. Right outside of Houston
2. I was enrolled in a martial arts program that I went to at least 3 times a week. Most of my friends were people in those classes who also went to school with me.
3. I remember watching in awe as they were talking about the moon landing on TV. The cold war was always in the back of everyone’s mind, especially while I was at college
   1. I wonder why our generation has lost its interest in space exploration.
4. We were middle class, maybe lower middle class. My father was a mechanic and my mother worked in a supermarket as a manager
5. While I wasn’t 8-14, I had a girlfriend in high school that I really liked and got along with. I wasn’t a big fan of my parents so she was the most important thing to me at the time.
   1. It’s funny how teenage boys, then and now are still a bit rebellious in nature.

While issue specific priorities seem to vary from generation to generation, it’s interesting how events that effected them such as the Vietnam war or the cold war. Conflict seemed to plague the older generations much more than it does to millennials. The Iraq war was a devastating financial and personnel loss for the United States but our generation was not emotionally invested in it as much as prior wars.

Part II

1. Family matters a lot more, for better or for worse than a lot of other subjects. It appeared in multiple responses and the theme of family life having a drastic impact on ones life is still intact. Currently, facts point to the trend that a record number of millennials are going to be economically forced to live with their parents which is yet another example of the family factor. Friends derived derived from just school interactions seem to be concentrated in the younger generation rather than the older ones. But that could just be a factor of the small sample size.
2. Some moved around while others stayed relatively stationary but in varying geological regions. The responses don’t seem to have any correlation as to where the individual was from. The subject from Texas had similar concerns to the subject from Massachusetts. They were both concerned with global events at the time which is a testament to the unity of the generation X’ers
3. As mentioned in my conclusion, United States-centric wars seemed to have the most effect. Those wars were televised much more often than the war in Afghanistan and was talked about much more frequently. Other than that, even though Millennials have unprecedented communication access to each other, the new technology hasn’t showed up as a major factor in the interviews.
4. Economic standing gives an individual’s opportunity to experience new things more than others. While the interviewees were all a part of the middle class, the other interview questions did not reveal events that would indicated any kind of socio-economic filtering.
5. Working with old generations becomes easier as they assimilate to technology. I had my interview over a Google Hangout with my old boss and my mom got back to my email within 30 minutes. As people become more “online” it’ll be easier to communicate concepts and plans of action with older generations. There are minor discrepancies between opinions but those also exists within Millennials regardless so at that point it becomes about your ability to interact with other individuals and their ideologies, rather than their age. The same philosophy applies to the sex, race, disability and other traits.