The Beloit College Mindset List for the Class of 2021

Students heading into their first year of college this year are mostly 18 and were born in 1999. Among the iconic figures who have never been alive in their lifetimes are Joe DiMaggio, John F. Kennedy Jr., Walter Payton, and Dusty Springfield.

1. Their classmates could include Eddie Murphy’s Zola and Mel Gibson’s Tommy, or Jackie Evancho singing down the hall.

2. They are the last class to be born in the 1900s, the last of the Millennials — enter next year, on cue, Generation Z!

3. They are the first generation for whom a “phone” has been primarily a video game, direction finder, electronic telegraph, and research library.

4. Electronic signatures have always been as legally binding as the pen-on-paper kind.

5. In college, they will often think of themselves as consumers, who’ve borrowed a lot of money to be there.

6. eHarmony has always offered an algorithm for happiness.

7. Peanuts comic strips have always been repeats.

8. They have largely grown up in a floppy-less world.

9. They have never found Mutual Broadcasting or Westinghouse Group W on the radio dial, but XM has always offered radio programming for a fee.

10. There have always been emojis to cheer us up.

View the complete list at beloit.edu/mindset/2021