

WHAT DOES THE MODERN TEENAGER EXPECT FROM SCHOOL?



ARE THE TEENAGERS I TEACH NORMAL?



**Contrary to popular
belief...**

Teenagers are

NOT ALL THE SAME.

**There is no one size fits all
answer to the question
asked**



**SEVEN POSSIBLE CATEGORIES OF
TEENAGERS AT SCHOOL...
EACH WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS**

1

THE STUDIOUS STUDENTS



INTRINSICALLY MOTIVATED TO LEARN

- **THEY ARE MOTIVATED TO APPLY THEMSELVES AT SCHOOL**
- **THEY THINK DEEPLY**
- **THEY LISTEN CAREFULLY**
- **THEY COMPLETE HOMEWORK**
- **THEY ARE SBA ACHIEVEMENT BASED**



So what do they want?

They want

***A SCHOOL THAT IS LEARNER DRIVEN, IN THAT
IT
MAKES EVERY EFFORT
TO PROVIDE FACILITIES THAT ENHANCE
EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND
LEARNING IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.***

2.

THE SUBJECT SPECIALISTS



TOP OF THE CLASS GROUP

- **THEY ENJOY SCHOOL**
- **THEY FEEL ENGAGED WHEN THEY PERCEIVE THAT WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING IS USEFUL, INTERESTING AND RELEVANT**
- **NOT ASSESSMENT BASED**
- **FIND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AS NECESSARY TOOLS TO CREATE SPEED AND RELEVANCE**
- **FIRMLY FOCUSSED ON TERTIARY STUDY**
- **AP MATHS AND OLYMPIAD ENTRANTS**



They want

***A SCHOOL THAT OFFERS EXTENDED LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES, WHICH INCLUDE INSIGHT
ABOVE KNOWLEDGE IN SPECIALISED FIELDS.***

3.

FRIENDLY FANS



CONVEY POSITIVE EMOTION

- NOT BRIGHT BUT EXCITED
- PROUD OF THEIR SCHOOL
- INTERESTED IN WHAT IS HAPPENING
- THEY STAY AT SCHOOL
- THEY THRIVE ON INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION
- ALWAYS BUSY
- SEEK ATTENTION, SAFETY AND HAPPINESS AT SCHOOL



They want

***A SCHOOL THAT SERVES AS A SAFE AND
SECURE HOME, WHERE THEY SENSE A
CONNECTEDNESS IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT
SUPPORTS THEIR EXTRACURRICULAR INTERESTS.
MODERN FACILITIES AND EXPERT COACHING
ARE SEEN AS IMPORTANT.***

4. **THE HAND BREGADE**



ALWAYS ON BOARD

- **ENGAGED**
- **WORK HARD**
- **PARTICIPATE IN CLASS BUT RARELY AFTERWARDS**
- **LOVE TASKS, ASSESSMENTS AND ORAL ENGAGEMENT**



They want

***A SCHOOL WHERE THEY ARE NOTICED
REGARDLESS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN AN
ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION IN THE TEACHING AND
LEARNING PROCESS .***

5. **THE SOCIALITES**



ENJOY THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL



- **LIKE BEING WITH FRIENDS**
- **ENJOY BREAK TIME FOR SOCIALISING**
- **ENJOY WATCHING SPORT AND OTHER POPULAR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**
- **AVERAGE ACHIEVERS**
- **FIND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AS NECESSARY TOOLS FOR SOCIALISING**
- **PROBABLY DISINTERESTED IN CLASS**

They want

***COMFORTABLE AREAS WHERE THEY CAN
SOCIALISE, WHICH INCORPORATE WI-FI
FACILITIES AND ACCESS TO SMART DEVICES.
OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
ARE SEEN AS ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL
LIFE.***

6. **THE TEACHER TWINS**



VALUE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH TEACHERS

- **THEY THRIVE WHEN THE TEACHER NOTICES THEM**
- **THEY WILL CHOOSE A TEACHER ABOVE A SUBJECT**
- **MOST SATISFIED IN THEIR CURRENT SCHOOL**
- **IF NOTICED THEY WILL BE HAPPY ANYWHERE**



They want

***A SENSE OF CONNECTEDNESS BETWEEN
THEMSELVES AND THEIR TEACHERS THROUGH
INDIVIDUALISED ATTENTION.***

7. **THE THOUGHTFUL THINKERS**



PHILOSOPHERS AND CRITICS

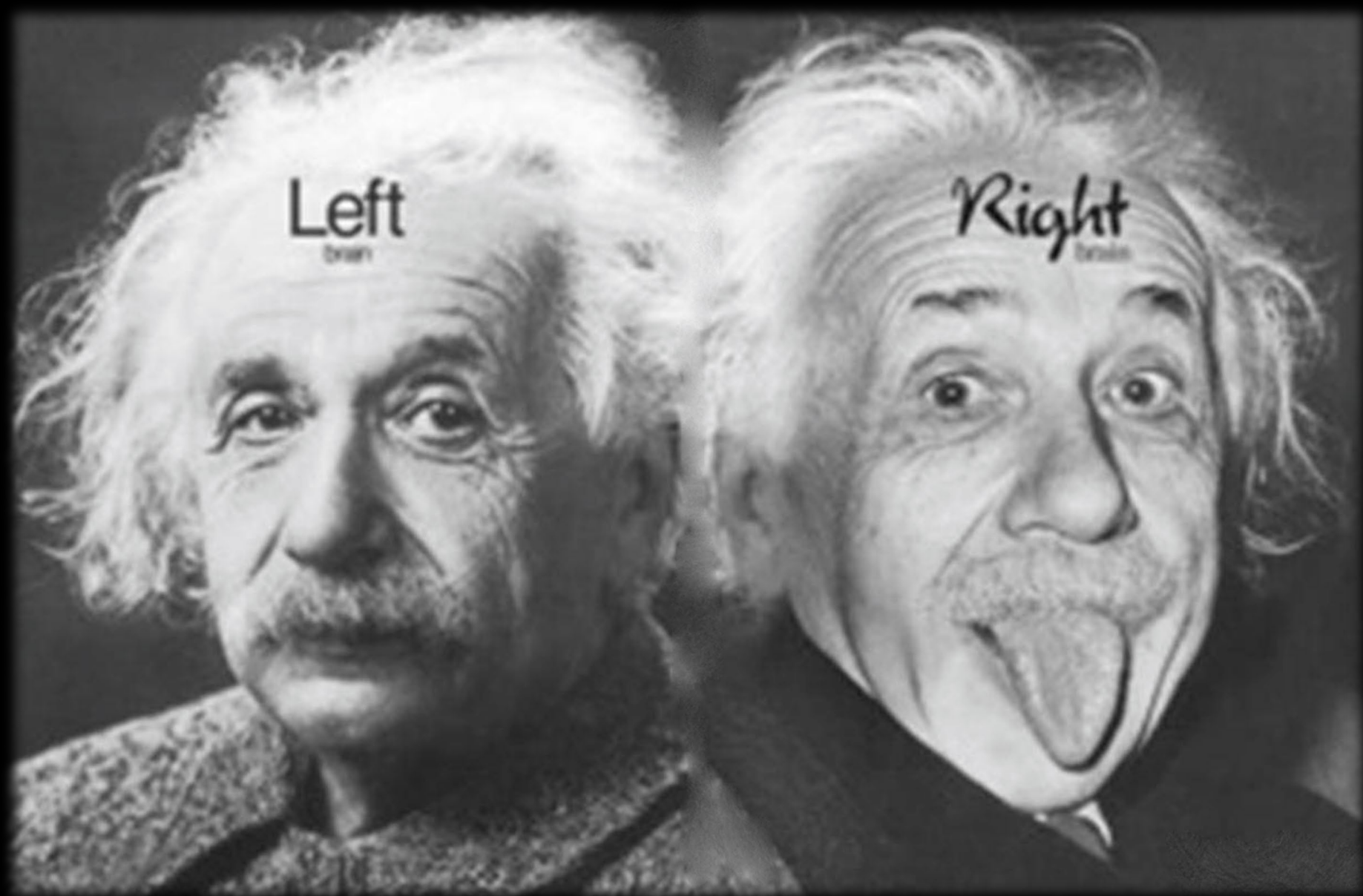
- **HIGH LEVELS OF COGNITIVE ENGAGEMENT**
- **THEY PUSH THE BOUNDARIES**
- **ANTI ASSESSMENT, RULES AND REGULATIONS**
- **ALTERNATIVE IDEAS**
- **POTENTIAL DROPOUTS**
- **OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD**



They want

***OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS THEIR
INDIVIDUALITY IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT
EMBRACES DIVERSITY AND RESPECTS
CREATIVITY.***

**THE NEEDS OF
TEENAGERS AT SCHOOL
ARE THEREFORE SPECIFIC
RATHER THAN GENERIC**





**80% of South
African teenagers
are right
hemisphere
dominant**

**75% of teachers
are left
hemisphere
dominant**



IN CONCLUSION

THE PUSH-PULL EFFECT

**“I don’t want them to treat me like a grown up, but
also not like a baby”**



SHOULD THE TEACHERS DISCIPLINE YOU?

91% = YES

9% = NO

HOW SHOULD THEY DISCIPLINE YOU?

- **Talk to me about what I did wrong**
- **Listen to me**
- **Avoid shouting and overreacting**
- **Allow me to sit and think about what I did wrong**
- **Private admonishing**
- **Detention without benefits**
- **Make it suitable**

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO MY TEACHERS...

- “I love and totally appreciate the way you are helping me”
- “I appreciate your understanding”
- “I respect and honour you”
- “I want to feel connected to all of the teachers”

AND...

**STOP SWEATING THE
SMALL STUFF!**



Generation wants

An academic environment
in which students believe
that adults in the school
care about their learning
and about them as
individuals.



Thank you

