

## **Workforce Takeover: Does Generation Z have what it takes?**

By: Alesa Gerald

It was Thanksgiving and I looked around the table at my family digging ditches in their plates stacked with food. They were talking about technology and saddened that things couldn't go back to the way that they used to be. I started to speak, but then my uncle said, "It's these millennials. Alesa's generations can't live without it." The thing I couldn't get out of my head is that I'm not even a millennial. I'm Generation Z.

Generation Z has gotten a bad reputation with some other older generations. Gen Z has grown up with technology, the internet and social media, which sometimes causes them to be stereotyped as tech-addicted, anti-social, or "sensitive" towards social issues.

[The Pew Research Center](#) says Generation Z, sometimes referred to as iGen, Centennials or Gen Z, is defined as people born between 1996 – 2010.

We may be the generation where people think it's okay to eat Tide pods, jump out of moving cars or eat a spoonful of cinnamon just because some social media challenge told us too, but Gen Z is more than that. Generation Z will take over the workforce, and let me tell you why.

Because of Gen Z's roots in technology, most were given their first smart phone by age 12, but according to a study by [Millennial Branding and Randstad](#), when it comes to our working lives, over half of us would prefer to communicate with managers face-to-face debunking the theory that "Generation Z doesn't know how to communicate." In fact, my generation is probably the most well-versed in terms of communication because we are considered the most open-minded generation to date.

An article by [Business Insider](#) said, with our open-minded nature, "Gen Z most closely mirrors millennials on key social and political issues, but without much of the optimism; More US Gen Zers than any other generation (68%) feel the US is headed in the wrong direction, and fewer Gen Zers than any other generation (32%) feel the country is headed in the right direction."

Although rumors of Centennial's lazy nature spouts from the mouths of the generation that raised them, iGens have high aspirations for themselves. According to a survey by [Robert Half](#), 32 percent of Generation Z believe that they will be managing employees within the next five years.

Generation Z has been preparing to enter the work force as early as high school. As students, nearly half of Gen Zers participate in internships to advance themselves professionally. We are more motivated scholastically than Millennials or Gen X.

The iGen are leaders. We aspire to be our own bosses and begin careers that reflect our own hobbies and passions. If we do decide to work for companies our ability to work for them will reflect not only their flexibility and benefits, but also the effects the company has on society.

With most companies moving towards forms of online communication, Generation Z will run the work force, helping us onto the new forefront of online media, keeping open minds towards new

trends and making sure our companies have positive effects on the world. Gen Z is coming and we're coming more prepared and determined than any other generation before them.

If I could go back to that Thanksgiving, I would speak up for my generation. I would tell him that I'm not a millennial, I'm a GenZer and I'm proud to be one. I'd tell him that Generation Z will take over the workforce soon and there's nothing anyone can do to stop them.

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### **About Alesa Gerald**

In elementary school, Alesa Gerald's behavior card was always on red for making conversation with whoever she was sitting next to. As a public relations senior, Alesa Gerald is certain she chose the correct major. She is currently working as a PR specialist for SWOOP and is passionate about connecting her clients with people. Her hobbies include hanging out with her friends, participating in NABJ and binge watching as many TV shows as she can. In the future, Alesa hopes to work as a community relations person for an organization in the DFW area.



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