



O'level  
Foundation  
Week 17

**The Write Tribe**

## COMPO PLANNING

### Composition Topic

Young people are not resilient. Do you agree?

Yes

No



**NO! They are not resilient**

"Strawberry generation"? It's what the older generation has decided to call young people. The strawberry generation traces its origins to the Chinese-language neologism for Taiwanese people born after 1982. They are the young individuals of today, which the West likes to call "snowflakes". They are categorized as being overly sensitive to the slightest criticism. They act "entitled" and expect to climb up the corporate ladder with little or no effort in comparison to the previous generation that had things hard!

## **1. Inability to take criticism**

"A recent Gallup report on the millennial generation reveals that 21% of millennials say they've changed jobs within the past year, which is more than three times the number of non-millennials who report the same.

More than 40% of America's baby boomers stayed with their employer for more than 20 years.



### **This is due to Helicopter parenting.**

As parents control their child's environment, it does not give them the opportunity to learn from their own mistakes. They grew up in a generation where they got prizes no matter the outcome.

When they played pee-wee soccer or football or little league and they lost, they still got a ribbon. Or a "smaller" trophy. And they definitely still had a pizza party after the game. This is due to helicopter parenting. As a result, many of the younger generation is not resilient to stay in the workforce and roll with the punches like the earlier generation did.

**NO! They are  
not resilient**

## **Younger generations are raised around INSTANT GRATIFICATION.**

Buying kids whatever they want!  
A healthy upbringing will see a child understand and accept the word, "No". While parents were known to be strict in the olden days, new-age parents often choose to give in to their kids' demands and buy them whatever they want. Disposable incomes have made this even easier, and the child grows up with no real sense of gratitude. Such people believe in the same ideas after growing up and have a hard time handling rejection. In today's busy world where careers are as important as raising a family, parents can often compensate for spending time with their children by spoiling them. There's no compensation for actually spending time with your child. And your money is only as good as creating a sense of entitlement. It creates the notion that money can be a redeeming factor, no matter the mistake. Not the precedent you want to set for your child.

However this is why the younger generation has problems being resilient in jobs and relationships. Job satisfaction and strength of relationships take time to build. The younger generations are so used to instant gratification that they have no patience to build careers or relationships that last.

## **2. Driven by instant gratification**

*"Everything you can want  
you can have  
instantaneously...except job  
satisfaction and strength of  
relationships. There ain't no  
app for that," Simon Sinek  
quipped. "They are slow,  
meandering, uncomfortable,  
messy processes."*



**NO! They are  
not resilient**

Young adults struggling to deal with everything from severe stress and anxiety to academic workloads to understanding how to do their laundry. Pop culture mocks Millennials as generally helpless and their Generation Z siblings as so wedded to their phones as to be socially dysfunctional.

In 2018, the journal Depression and Anxiety reported that 20% in a survey of 67,000 students had experienced suicidal thoughts and 9% had attempted suicide. Clearly mental health is a major concern on college campuses, and more resources need to be directed to helping students respond to depression, anxiety and mental illness

A widely read 2015 article in Psychology Today noted that “Many students ... now view a C, or sometimes even a B, as failure, and they interpret such 'failure' as the end of the world.” Faculty report increasing numbers of students who not only respond poorly to criticism, but who also feel entitled to second or even third chances on exams, papers and other assignments.

The lack of resilience could even be linked to widespread media coverage of college students not coping with basic life tasks. If one reads enough headlines it appears that college students can't cook a basic meal, do their own laundry, manage the simplest of finances or even their morning schedules well enough to share a bathroom.

They can't work independently, they won't work during normal hours, they refuse to do entry-level tasks, they can't take criticism from managers - and you have quite a complex of issues.

### **3. Inability to cope with adversity**

Young adults appear to be less willing or able to learn from adversity than in the recent past. Perhaps they were shielded from negative consequences in their teens, or guided by “helicopter parents” around most obstacles or simply grew overconfident because they were never challenged sufficiently to test their abilities. Now we see students who earn even a few poor grades disengage from class, stop attending or even drop out and fail to progress toward their academic goals.



**NO! They are  
not resilient**

**QUIZ TIME!**

**1. Millennials and Gen Z are more likely to change jobs than the older generation known as boomers**

- a. True
- b. False

**2. More than 40% of America's baby boomers stayed with their employer for more than 20 years.**

- a. True
- b. False

**3. What is "Strawberry Generation?"**

- a. Young people who are labelled soft, self-centred and spoilt.
- b. Young people who are resilient, hardworking and humble

**4. What is a helicopter parent?**

- a. Parents who encourage children. They prefer their children to learn as they go and not butt in all the time. They believe children should have independence and autonomy.
- b. Parents who love monitoring every activity of their child. They plan and schedule everything for their child



**5. What is instant gratification?**

- a. The inability to patiently wait to reap rewards
- b. The ability to patiently wait to reap rewards

**6. New-age parents often choose to give in to their kids' demands and buy them whatever they want.**

- a. True
- b. False

**7. A widely read 2015 article in Psychology Today noted that "Many students ... now view a C, or sometimes even a B, as failure, and they interpret such 'failure' as the end of the world."**

- a. True
- b. False

**8. According to the above research, young adults appear to be less willing or able to learn from adversity than in the recent past.**

- a. True
- b. False



**YES! They are resilient**

## **1. Tackling financial insecurity in uncertain times**

Not even a global pandemic and ensuing economic crisis can keep the globe's millennials and Gen Zs down.

Millennials have never experienced sustained financial security. They joined the workforce during the 2008 recession and now, a decade later and right when they should be hitting their salary stride, they face another historic economic downturn.



### **Millennials save more than older generations.**

Those surveyed report saving or investing 40% of their disposable income. They **save more and spend less** than their parents. Whether through budgeting apps, spreadsheets, or a table full of receipts ahead of Tax Day, they're diligent about controlling their finances.

## **THE RESILIENT GENERATION**

The Resilient Generation's ascendance into adulthood has been marked by technological transformation, financial upheaval, and political, environmental, and social movements. Through it all, they have staunchly believed in and advocated for workplace flexibility, income equality, diversity, inclusion, and a business purpose beyond the bottom line.

YES! They are resilient

## 2. Pushing environmental action

### Past generations created a climate crisis for Millennials and Generation Z

- **On June 23, 1988, NASA climate scientist James Hansen told the US Senate it was time to acknowledge that climate change was happening and take action to limit its effects.**
- **Thirty years later, the world has continued to burn fossil fuels faster and faster, cranking planet-warming carbon dioxide levels higher than they've been for millions of years.**

They believe climate change is happening and that it's largely caused by humans, and many fear the damage is already done. Still, they're making daily, personal decisions to fight it.

They're using **public transportation** more and thinking twice about **"fast fashion"** purchases.

Recycling is up and meat and fish consumption is down. Where only **2.5 percent** of Americans over the age of 50 consider themselves **vegetarian**, **7.5 percent of Millennials** and **Gen Z** have given up meat.

Over half of those surveyed are taking environmental impact into consideration when thinking about how many children they want to have, if any.

### COVID 19 Created a surprising sense of hope

When manufacturing, supply chains, and air travel came to a halt, emissions and **pollution levels plunged**. In Venice, the canals cleared. In Mumbai, the smog lifted. The world turned upside-down and with this new vantage point, anything feels possible.

