Kids These Days Won’t Answer the Phone: Generations in Context
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1. Group people by ages:
   - **0-12**
   - **13-18**
   - **19-22**
   - **23-30**
   - **31-40**
   - **41-50**
   - **51-60**
   - **61-80**

   **Questions to Consider**
   - What is your income?
   - What is your family structure?
   - Who do you live with?
   - Who do you spend your day with?
   - Who are your friends?
   - What major life stages are happening?
   - What are your priorities?

   **Age Group – 19-22 – Average College Student**
   - Part time job, full time job, no job, help from parents, student loans, most likely less than 20-30,000 a year
   - Still in touch with parents and siblings, maybe grandparents
   - Peers close to your own age, teachers, supervisors, coworkers
   - People your own age, high school and college friends, new friends
   - Moving away from parents, college or university, working
   - Jobs, education, dating, friends, establishing identity independent of family

2. Consider the above questions about life experiences of each age group. Answers are for an average college student aged 19-22.

3. Rather than cave to assumptions ... do some academic research!
   - Psychology of particular ages
   - Demographic trends
   - Historical experiences of age groups
   - Trends through the ages

4. Consider:
   - For a student paying $22,083 per academic year working 52 weeks a year at 17 hours a week, they would need to be either make $25.00 per hour to pay off college at the current rate of $1980 OR work 60 hours a week at the current minimum wage.

5. Consider:
   - Economy changes over time – including inflation, general cost, expectations of things to own is style creep. How old you are when economic changes happen can deeply impact your life, such as graduating or retiring during a recession. There will be fewer jobs, delaying your entrance into the workforce and you may experience a significant loss in your investments.

Technology and Events

6. Technology: Ask yourself
   - How old were you when you got access to certain technologies?
   - Were you able to afford the same technologies as your friends?
   - Did all of your friends or peers get the same technology as you at the same time?
   - What kind of technology could your primary and secondary schools afford?
   - Have you ever felt like you got behind in certain technological skills throughout your life? Why?

7. Events:
   - Remember that current events unite us but our age when they happened changes our experience of them. And to someone born after a tragedy, that tragedy has always existed and they cannot remember it.

8. Why do we do this and what do we do?

   **Pattern Recognition: Snake in the Grass**
   - We evolved to see patterns and make choices quickly especially for survival.
   - So if you hear a rush of the grass, you have to always assume it’s a snake and not the wind. So we make broad assumptions about other people we see.

   **Us Vs Them**
   - We also evolved to be distrustful of anyone who seems different than us and perceive them as a threat through infection disease or violence.

   **Compartmentalizing for Fast Processing**
   - Classifying things into neat boxes makes for fast brain processing and easy memory creation.
   - Humans do have some behavior patterns but are inherently complicated.

   **Quote from Simone, The Good Place, Season 3, Episode 3**
   - ‘As humans evolved, the first big problem we had to overcome was “me versus us.” Learning to sacrifice a little individual freedom for the benefit of a group. You know, like sharing food and resources so we don’t starve or get eaten by tigers, things like that.’[
   - ‘The next problem to overcome was “us versus them,” trying to see other groups different from ours as equals.
   - That one, we’re still struggling with.’

9. Situate yourself within your own context of experiences

10. What is normal to you is not normal to everyone else.

11. Consider when someone was born, their age, the economy, events and technology and varied experiences and access.