

SHARING MY "FOR YOU" PAGE: ADAPTING TO GEN Z LAW STUDENTS

Three things you should know about me: I am a member of Gen Z, my Myers-Briggs personality type is INTP (introverted, intuitive, thinking, perceiving), and I am an Aquarius. These characteristics have heavily influenced how I have developed as a new law librarian since starting my current position on December 1, 2020.

One of the most interesting aspects of my job during my first year was teaching Introduction to Legal Research. As if teaching for the first time was not stressful enough, it is a unique and anxiety-inducing experience to teach members of my own generation. Most incoming law students belong to Gen Z. As a member of Gen Z myself, teaching these students can be both challenging and rewarding. Regardless of any struggles, I do find comfort in being able to relate to my students on a different level than my colleagues. I understand the most recent TikTok trends and use Gen Z vernacular in my own everyday conversations, which puts students at ease and allows for interesting discussions in the classroom.



What do I have in common with Albert Einstein, Neo from The Matrix, and the Hulk? We are all INTPs. People with this personality type are known for getting lost in thought and constantly pursuing new ideas to satisfy their curiosity. These traits are not only useful for the scavenger hunt that is answering reference questions, but also for coming up with projects that market the law library's resources and services. For example, my most recent idea was to shred a study aid (gasp!) and seal it in a jar for the law library's "New Year, New Study Habits" display. Students were invited to guess the subject of the study aid; correct guesses were entered into a drawing for a grand prize. Although I do not yet know what impact this activity may have on study aid usage, it was worth a shot to get students engaged with our resources and provide them with the opportunity to win a prize.

While many may scoff at astrology, being an Aquarius is a deeply rooted facet of my personal identity. Aquarius, the humanitarian of the zodiac, is known for being freethinking, eccentric, and a bit strange. I rebel against orthodoxy and my favorite questions to ask are "why?" and "why not?" My colleagues likely wonder what makes me such an adamant proponent of beanbag chairs and stress balls. The simple answer is that I want to make the law library a more inviting place for students to study and relax. The complex answer is that I feel it is my responsibility to advocate for productive change by promoting creativity and focusing on student wellbeing. Law students are more than just a group of people—they are individuals with their own personalities, needs, and dreams. I am here to listen and stand up for all of them.

As a member of Gen Z, I will stubbornly campaign for change that benefits my generation in law school. As an INTP, I will constantly pursue new ideas to accomplish this change. As an Aquarius, I will remain steadfast in questioning the status quo and supporting the wellbeing of law students. As a law librarian, I will use my voice and position to breathe life into these goals. I am all these things and will do all these things because my identity demands it.

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