Yo, Grandma, How’s it Hangin’?

With four separate generations, traditionalists, baby boomers, generation X, and millennials, coexisting in the world there are bound to be some major differences and these differences can lead to disagreements and hard feelings to each other. There are many factors that form a generation as well as their way of speaking. In more recent years, the gap in language between generations has been growing quicker than the past couple hundred years. This is partially due to the growing use of social media, extreme popularity of movies and video games, and the change in dynamics between the old and the young. Through my study of language dissimilarities between generations I found that these differences make it harder for the generations to communicate properly and therefore connect with each other due to the extreme variances in backgrounds, views, and priorities specifically in the work place.

Anyone familiar with working with people in different age groups should agree that the difference of opinions between them can lead to an unhealthy workplace. Between the generations, they each have their own values, experiences and work ethics. Traditionalists prefer to adhere to rules, not question authority, and appreciate dedication and sacrifice (West Midland Family Center Generational Chart). Baby boomers are considered the “me” generation and are against war and the government, wanted equal rights and opportunities, and wanted to work, questioned everything, and trusted no one over thirty, they want to make a difference (WMFCGC). Generation X is all for balance and diversity, are highly educated with high job expectations, and they are self reliant and suspicious of the Baby Boomer’s values (WMFCGC). Millennials are all for self achievement, civic duty and extreme fun, they are highly competitive, socialable, and spiritual and are considered the most educated of the generations (WMFCGC).