

# My advice to younger generations

by Ken Larsen last updated: 4:56 PM October 4, 2019

I'm part of the baby boom generation. We're near the end of our lives. That's probably a good thing, because the current world is a toxic mess and will likely get worse.

Here is my advice to younger generations:

	Ken's advice	Explanation
1	To improve your chances of landing a good job, you'll need to network.	Most people think that the way to land a job is to create a resume and then apply online to companies you aspire to join. There's a lot more to it than that. You'll need to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learn about the company you aspire to join. What do they do? What are their strengths and weaknesses?</li> <li>2. Identify the skills that you offer and how you might help them.</li> <li>3. Befriend someone on the inside of that company. The best way is to network. <a href="#">[tips on how to network]</a></li> </ol>
2	Make more of your relationships transformative and not transactional.	<a href="#">[details]</a>
3	Don't insult or bully people.	In this day and age of ubiquitous cameras, the internet, and social media, a drunken tirade can be video recorded, posted on social media, and then spread across the globe in an instant. You could lose your job the next day. Or worse, you could get shot. Guns are ubiquitous in the United States, and you never know when someone might get hot-tempered and pull a gun out.
4	Don't judge people based on the color of their skin, their origin, or their sexual orientation.	Racism, xenophobia, and homophobia are social cancers.
5	Learn about cultural differences	The more you understand foreign cultures, the more valuable you can be as an employee, public servant, or member of society. There are loads of differences, and unfortunately most Americans are totally unaware of them. <a href="#">[details]</a>
6	Develop good communications skills	Learn how to write and speak in a clear simple manner. This is particularly important if you're dealing with people from another country. Speaking fast and using slang makes it difficult for foreigners to understand you. <a href="#">[more on communication skills]</a>
7	Don't be impetuous.	"Decide in haste, repent at leisure." A hasty unwise decision can cost you dearly and for a long time.
8	Use balanced thinking.	Consider all sides of an issue before making a decision. <a href="#">[details]</a>  Political leaders: Don't make decisions based on the wishes of special interest groups.
9	Recognize that most issues are not black and white. There may be many shades of gray.	
10	Learn about probability theory.	"Correlation does not imply causation". Backgammon is a favorite game of mine. It's a game of both luck and skill. Occasionally a weak player will defeat a strong player because of the dice. That's the way life is. Occasionally things will go your way because of luck ... not because God intervened or you deserved to win.
11	Place your faith in science and not religion.	There is no God. <a href="#">[details]</a>
12	Don't justify decisions based exclusively on what was done in the past.	Technology changes things. We now have assault weapons. In 1790 they had muskets. We now have the internet. In 1790 there was the town crier.

	<b>Ken's advice</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
13	Vote	Study the issues, study the candidates, and vote. Voter apathy and ignorance result in bad leaders.
14	Respect the environment.	Our oceans are being destroyed by plastic. Global warming is real and caused by man.
15	Be a good parent	Raise your children well. Don't desert them. Don't imbue them with toxic beliefs.
16	If you don't want children, practice birth control or have yourself sterilized.	The world has a population problem. <a href="#">[details]</a>
17	Try to learn something from everyone you meet.	It's tempting to only hang out/talk with people who only share your common interests, age, and values, but that's a mistake. Look at every interaction as a potential learning experience. You can dramatically improve your knowledge of the world if you do so. This will also improve your appeal to other people ... which would be a huge benefit if you're ever looking for a job or a life partner.
18	Be leery about taking pharmaceuticals.	When you're depressed, it's tempting to go to a doctor and have them prescribe an anti-depressant. They'll be happy to do so, but I regard taking pharmaceuticals as a last resort. Make sure you research natural solutions (e.g. exercise) before succumbing to the allure of the pharmaceutical industry.
19	Beware of brainwashing.	Particularly in the United States, we are bombarded by brainwashing from a multiplicity of sources. <a href="#">[details]</a>

Unfortunately, many of these are not practiced by President Donald Trump. His lying, racism, and erratic impetuous decision making are horrid examples for our nation. Mass killings have gone up, and I blame Trump's behavior as the catalyst. He's a "gaslighter" ... someone who starts a fire. We need leaders who are fire extinguishers.