



Updated: Sun., Jan. 9, 2011, 6:47 AM

Finally minding their manners

By HEATHER HADDON

Last Updated: 6:47 AM, January 9, 2011

Posted: 1:47 AM, January 9, 2011

They text during job interviews. They friend their bosses on Facebook. Many can't cleanly cut their steaks.

Millennials, it's time to meet Miss Manners.

Wide-eyed 20-somethings are inundating New York etiquette classes as they look for a lifeline in the transition between college slacker and Wall Street suit.

Some are plunking down \$400 an hour to buy some class after graduating into the real world -- and finding they can't get a job on smarts alone. Others are being hauled into finishing schools by employers dissatisfied with their manners, or parents eager to make good on all that dough forked over for college.

"I thought it would help me not to be so rude and get in the mode of the business world," said Lindsay Yuhasz, 22, whose mother agreed to shell out \$275 for classes on dining and business skills after she moved to Manhattan this year.

Yuhasz, who works for a big tourism company, said etiquette boot camp was revelation. The science of eating soup, with the civilized diner having to sit up straight and refrain from scraping the bowl's bottom, was worth the price alone.

"You have no idea what soup is like," she said. "You think you can eat soup, and you are wrong."

Generation Y is "lacking social skills big time," said Lyudmila Bloch, author of "The Golden Rules of Etiquette at The Plaza," who charges \$400 an hour for private tutoring sessions. "A lot of parents are concerned."

Patricia Fitzpatrick, of The Etiquette School of New York in Manhattan, said she had about double the number of young people in the past year, many of them coming from the investment-banking and legal fields.

One boss sent a 23-year-old lawyer to six sessions of classes after the wunderkind proved to be "too informal and sloppy," Fitzpatrick said.

Part of the problem, etiquette coaches say, is that millennials seem more comfortable texting people than actually picking up the phone or speaking face to face.

hhaddon@nypost.com

Writing Directions

Read the passage above and write an essay responding to the ideas it presents. In your essay, be sure to summarize the passage in your own words, stating the author's most important ideas. Develop your essay by identifying one idea in the

passage that you feel is especially significant, and explain its significance. Support your claims with evidence or examples drawn from what you have read, learned in school, and/or personally experienced.

Remember to review your essay and make any changes or corrections that are needed to help your reader follow your thinking. You will have 90 minutes to complete your essay.

Plan before you write:

The author's name is _____

What is the title of piece and what does it mean? _____

What is the author's main idea /thesis? _____

What are some points that the author uses to support the main idea? _____

What did the author say that interests you most? _____

What did you find important in the article? Explain. _____