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“Is Stupid Making Us Google?” Review

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In his article, James Bowman talks about how it might not be Google that is necessarily making our society less apt towards the deep kind of thinking that Nicholas Carr describes in his article “Is Google Making Us Stupid?,” but rather, develops his idea that stupidity is making us Google. Bowman argues that a lack of mentorship in this digital age has left younger generations deprived of the abilities or the want to thoroughly investigate different ideas and concepts. Bowman states, that “mentors have not only betrayed their pupils, they have denounced the very idea of mentorship in anything but the tools of deconstruction which allow them to set themselves up as superior to – rather than the humble acolytes of – the culture they study.” He concludes his argument by stating that it is both “difficult and depressing,” knowing that survey data and experts in the field are more than not pointing out that it is our “children and grandchildren who are preceding us in stupidity,” and that eventually, the transmission of culture and tradition might eventually cease because of this.

I do believe in both Carr’s view and Bowman’s view, quite heavily actually. I do feel that, as Carr points out, we’ve begun to shift towards that culture of immediate gratification, where we’d much rather skim an article than do the actual “deep reading” and “deep thinking” that used to be involved with such studies. In addition to this, the youth that this is most affecting, need their “mentors not to go with the youth flow, but to stand staunchly against it, to represent something smarter and finer than the cacophony of social life.” Unless these mentors begin to upholds the past traditions and ways of teaching and passing on information to younger generations, we are bound to get wrapped up into that monster that Carr refer to, which consumes and automates many of today’s processes, of which previously use to take some sort of critical thinking. When this happens, as I feel, along with Bowman and probably Carr too, society will more than likely just become a group of shallow creatures that will be less capable of thinking for themselves, and just look for what Google is going to give to them.