Intelligence Defined

Intelligence can be defined as the ability to understand, analyze, interpret, and act upon previous or newly developed knowledge. While intelligence heavily relies on a person’s ability to recall information, intelligence is not just that. It is the ability of a person to understand, act and learn from information. While it is true that we as humans have steadily decreased our ability to interpret, concentrate, and retain memorized material, this is not all due to the Internet. There are many other factors which have resulted in this stupid version of our once intelligent selves. In opposition to Nicholas Carr’s article, we believe that the Internet not only advances intelligence, but simultaneously provides concrete and factual evidence.

Although Carr is correct that we are lacking the memorization, analyzation, and interpretation skills we obtained prior to the age of the Internet, his rationale behind this statement is not entirely true. Nicholas Carr states that using the Internet as a source of constant information weakens the application of our recall ability, analytical, and interpretive skills because the requested information is at our fingertips at all times. We believe that Google has helped to increase that amount of accurate knowledge within the world. Instead of a person spreading false information to those around him or her, the correct answer can be determined quickly. He claims that by us no longer having to work for our answers, we become shallow and depth-less beings. Through this statement, Carr implies that many of the concise online sources we use on a regular basis do not require much interpretation or analysis. While this is true, his specified repercussions, including our impending superficial nature, are not necessarily quite that drastic.

The blame which Carr puts on the Internet for human failure to recollect information, analyze, and interpret should be shared with its other contributing factors. For example, right now we are sitting on a couch in a dorm with our teammates around us working on other various tasks. There is a lot of conversation with the addition of the refrigerator’s constant hum. We are tired and probably not as focused as we could be. For these reasons, it is hard to remember exactly what the article stated, and we are constantly going back and forth between the two windows on our bright screen to remember words. Our analysis of the article is becoming increasingly harder to put together. Note that there is no use of the Internet. We are simply using a downloaded PDF and Word, yet we are still experiencing difficultly in the same areas specified by Carr. Although we face adversity in these forms, we retain the ability to understand, analyze, interpret, and act upon previous and newly developed knowledge. While the Internet may be contributing to this loss of skill at many other times, it is probable that is not the sole factor in opposition to the belief displayed in Carr’s article.

Contrary to Nicholas Carr’s stated position in his article, we believe that the use of the Internet does not affect the user to the extent illustrated by Carr. Although Internet use may muddle memory loss, analyzation, and interpretation skills, there are many other contributing factors, and intelligence is not necessarily defined by the sole usage of memorization.