The internet has all but taken over our daily lives. Many people use this technology every day, for work or entertainment, and have started noticing the supposed effects it has on our brain. People such as bloggers, or writers, like Nicholas Carr have noticed these such effects. These people believe that Google is making us more stupid. But, they are missing the big point that the internet is trying to send us: it is teaching us a new way to write and learn.

In the article, he says that he uses Google to look up many things for his writing. Although, he says the internet has caused him to “fight to stay focused on long pieces of writing”. Though he may have to fight to stay focused, Google is not to blame for this. In a way the internet is making us smarter because it gives us infinite knowledge at our fingertips. It can also help with reading and writing instead of hindering progress, like Carr might think.

Carr claims that Google has taken away his ability to think deeply. He claims that our minds have become accustomed to skimming over passages instead of deeply reading and understanding these passages. While we do skim and browse passages fairly quickly, it does not at all lower our ability to concentrate on certain tasks. Though, it may take a little longer to get engrossed into a book like War and Peace, once you are, it is easy to understand the characters and plot surrounding the book. The internet is not to blame for our brain wanting to take “shortcuts”, for there have been many studies that have shown it has been programmed to do that long before Google or the internet existed. Cambridge university, among many others, have done studies on this saying, “It’s just that our beliefs about what is normal, predictable or logical may prevent us from experiencing the perceptions that violate our assumptions. This simple fact – that what we expect determines what we experience – has long been recognised by psychologists.” This shows that our brain is just “programmed” to take shortcuts and assume things about the world.

Carr is afraid that Google creating artificial intelligence will take away our humanity, in a sense. The author quotes Kubrick, who has a dark “prophecy” which says,” …as we come to rely on computers to mediate our understanding of the world, it is our own intelligence that flattens into artificial intelligence.” They fear that Google will implant artificial intelligence into our brains to hold more memory. This in turn will cause us to become more robotic, like in the movie *2001: Space Odyssey*. This theory, however, is far more science fiction than science fact. This is because Google, though it has succeeded in making artificial intelligence now, it has not done so with the human brain. Google has more focused on machines with it artificial intelligence, such as cars and computers.

In conclusion, it is unreasonable to say that Google is making us more stupid, when it is just “reprogramming”, which is making us a different kind of smart. Carr’s reasoning is flawed, but he does have a few valid points. Google is very useful for finding information and should not be shunned because of these reasons.