**Why Technology Makes Us Smarter**

Technology is ever-fluid, ever-changing, and ever-progressive. Every day, more and more breakthroughs are made with the potential to imact our lives. However, many entertain the idea that technology, specifically Google and the internet, makes us stupid. One such person is acclaimed author Nicholas Carr. Recently, Carr has noticed his mind being altered by technology. He has noticed that, while he was once happy to read through pages of research, now he must skim the pages, unable to concentrate well. He attributes this to the rise of internet search engines; the great speed at which he finds information trains his mind to be expectant of receiving any answer extremely quickly, causing him to become impatient. This makes it seem as if the internet causes us to lose our ability to think, making us dumber. However, sites like Google are actually making us smarter, by letting us access more information, helping us analyze problems, and giving us more time to work.

Firstly, technology allows us to access a plethora of information. This includes doing everything from keeping note of to-do-lists, to maintaining entire libraries of information. With this sheer magnitude of information at our fingertips, we are bound to be smarter. However, as seen above, Carr argues that this amount of information decomposes our brains’ capacity for patience and concentration. To argue against this claim, people have worried about technology “rotting our brains” for millennia. For example, Socrates, an ancient, world-renowned philosopher, strongly distrusted writing (new technology back then). He believed that writing information down discouraged true understanding of the work. Today, writing is known to be a great technique for learning, illustrating how many fears of technology are untenable.

Technology also helps us become smarter by enabling a higher degree of problem analysis. There are countless problems that are impractical or impossible for a human to solve, but that a Google search can crack in seconds. For example, at this camp, it is often necessary to decipher text. Assuming one knows the key, a program can be used to instantly find the answer, instead of having to compute by hand. Advanced computers are used in countless other problems, such as alphabetizing large collections of books, accurately analyzing threats, and calculating values too complex for humans. In these ways, technology helps humanity become smarter.

Lastly, the internet saves us time. It is a well-known fact that, with Google, a person can find an answer to nearly any question in record time. Even Carr agrees with this point to some extent, as he believes “the Web has been a godsend to me as a writer” because “research that once required days … can now be done in minutes.” This greater efficiency dramatically increases the amount of time available to us. This time can be used for more research, and other important works.

In conclusion, the internet can make us smarter by giving access to more information, letting us analyze problems efficiently, and freeing us up to work on other things. Einstein famously said: “if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” This shows that, even if the internet shortens our attention spans, it benefits us in many other ways, ultimately making us smarter.