What Does Intelligence Mean to You

What does intelligence mean to you? Do you define intelligence as having a lot of life experience, memorizing things, or acquiring skills quickly? Are any of those things the true definition of intelligence? Google defines intelligence as the ability to acquire knowledge and skills. In contrast to Nicholas Carr’s opinion, we believe Google does not make you “stupid”. In many ways it improves our lives and allows us to expand our knowledge.

The internet is a very convenient source for anyone that is in need of information; it can be easily accessed on many different devices. If we need immediate answers to questions, knowledge on a topic, or directions to a location, we have access to these things right at our fingertips. Imagine you are writing an essay and you want to include more sophisticated words that represent your thoughts. Would it be convenient for you to go to your local library and search through a thesaurus to find the right words? No, most likely not because that would be very time consuming. You are not going to want to spend a great amount of time searching for something when you have a faster and more convenient way to find that information. Another advantage of the internet’s convenience is when it is used in emergency situations. If you are in need of medical assistance or another emergency has occurred and you need to locate a nearby hospital, you can easily Google the location and get directions.  This ease of access allows us to acquire knowledge through convenience.

The internet also allows us the access to learn information from other people. Through the sharing of other’s ideas and skills, we have the ability to absorb the new information. YouTube is a great example of the sharing of people’s intelligence. Suppose your math teacher asks you to work a complex problem, but you do not know how to do it. Through YouTube, you can access a video of someone who has experience working this type of problem, and in return, you can learn how to find the solution. The sharing of people’s ideas and intelligence leads to the expansion of our knowledge.

Finally, if Google and the internet are making us stupid, then aren’t books as well? The internet and books share similar qualities. They both contain information, and a lot of it. However, the internet contains more up-to-date information. For example, when a textbook is published and it contains a mistake, it cannot be corrected. Online books can be published and edited immediately, correcting any mistakes or flaws found in the book. The internet and books both have visual aids, but the images in a book are static, whereas the internet has interactive visual aids such as videos and applications. You can also read books online; an advantage of reading online is that you can quickly define complex terms, thus increasing your vocabulary.  If the internet is making us “stupid”, then books are certainly contributing to the problem as well.