**Smarter: Search by Search**

In his essay, Nicholas Carr states that Google is making society “stupid” and that it damages the way we interact and have relationships. Although he may be entitled to his own opinion, others may disagree and claim that it changes the way a human thinks in a positive manner. Google’s educational benefits are that it allows people to be more creative in approaching problems, increases productivity, and allows them to acquire information from around the world.

The internet allows creativity to blossom and to bear the fruit of prosperity due to the fact that one can have the world at their fingertips. Furthermore, it can help us to be integrative and united in our thinking. The internet also exposes us to other people’s work so it can both inspire and educate. Effective computing helps speed up creative processes so it can help spread information more quickly and easily.

Increased productivity is also a fruit of Google and the Internet. The Internet offers many services to help further efficiency among humanity. Some examples are videos, email, and maps. Videos are hastily becoming a more powerful medium for sharing information and story-telling. It is felt by most people that visual information is easier to comprehend. Gmail can also assist in communication far better than written letters. Although instant access to a copious amount of information may hinder the knowledge we as people retain, it still expands the horizons of possible info we can interpret. In a matter of seconds, billions of results materialize in the most convenient fashion. Google also helps unite the world to help spread ideas across the web. Thanks to instant messaging, we can easily communicate with people around the globe and spread ideas that will help improve intelligence.

Carr only speaks of personal experiences of himself and friends. “I’m not the only one. When I mention my troubles with reading to friends and acquaintances—literary types, most of them—many say they’re having similar experiences.” He has little proof to back him up. According to Newsweek, “People who had prior Internet experience showed significantly greater neural activity when searching online compared with those who had never done so.”

No matter what one’s opinion may be about Google, it is safe to say that it changes the way that we take in information. However, it is not necessarily making us “stupid”. We are becoming more intelligent, however the focal point of our attention has changed. We are, so to speak, “processing differently”. Carr himself states that the human brain is malleable. “People used to think that our mental meshwork, the dense connections formed along the 100 billion or so neutrons inside our skulls, was largely fixed by the time we reached adulthood. But brain researchers have discovered that that’s not the case.”

Although Carr may be firm-footed in his negative views towards the empirical search engine, it could easily be stated that Google is the natural progression of society towards a technological utopia. The combination of the Internet’s ability to allow creativity, increase productivity, connect people around the world, and flaws in Carr’s words contribute to the idea that the Internet makes us smarter.