In my life, I have grown up with Google as an easily accessible tool. One day, while browsing on the Internet, there was an advertisement for a specific Audible book. The book was called The Way of Kings, and I became interested in buying the book, which I was able to do through Amazon with ease due to Google. I have read a lot of novels from the same author, which is what caught my attention while I was browsing. I would have potentially never found these “masterpieces” if it would not have been for Google.

Some see Google as a learning device, and some see it as a research device. When gathering information for a specific purpose, such as a term paper or a research project, a person has the choice to go to a library and find a book that has a relatively narrow expanse of information, or to use their phone to access a large portion of all available research data. Should the individual choose the library, they may not research quickly in relation to an individual who chooses to use Google. In an average Google search, the website can produce hundreds of thousands of results, in less than half a second. Additionally, Google allows for searches for specific phrases. If one supposes that they need resources tailored specifically around the phrase “Ay! Gaze,” all one must do is enter the specific phrase in quotations to Google. Upon completion of the search of the remembered phrase, one finds the poem “Revenge,” the title of which one could not recall prior to the search. Finding a piece of data when you only possess a single component of that data requires supreme memory. Where human memory fails, Google remembers.

In his article, Carr analogizes human thinking in the context of Google to HAL’s “brain” being unplugged in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Carr’s analogy is flawed, a fact that becomes increasingly apparent as one considers the development of written language. Had Plato not eschewed the idea that writing innately possesses a quality that is prohibitive to human memory skills, the entirety of Western thought would lack the foundational ideas of Socrates. Without the advent of written language, modern readers would not have the literary masterpieces that they cherish today. This concept could also be said for the way people use and think about Google. Google has allowed for many businesses and people to become prosperous along with preserving the writings of authors across the world. Google is simply the next level of informational development which precedes an even more complex way of storing and allocating information.

The existence of Google led me to YouTube, which led me to the type of literature that I now read and enjoy. Google is not a simple tool intended to receive an input then spit out the shortest, easiest answer (although it certainly can), but to connect people to information. The concept of getting the reader to information allows for a person to find data that is specifically tailored to the interests of the reader, and inspires deep and contemplative thought. Google does not make us stupid, but connects us to information that would have otherwise been unknown.