As society’s capacity for technology grows, cyberspace grows with it, and one of its many forms is the Internet. The ever-expanding compilation of knowledge and information at our disposal leads some to wonder whether it is harmful or helpful to us. One author- Nicholas Carr- published an article posing the question, “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” “The Net is becoming a universal medium, the conduit for most of the information that flows through my eyes and ears and into my mind . . . what the Net seems to be doing is chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation,” says Carr. Throughout his article, Carr supports the idea that Google is harming society more than it is helping. Google is not making us stupid, but is helping us learn because a large database of knowledge with efficient methods of accessing this knowledge can only act as a learning tool.

The Internet is a quickly-accessible, vast expansion of information, more so than any other database in the world. We use it regularly in our day-to-day lives. Addressing Carr’s words stated above, we absolutely agree with his statement that the majority of human knowledge has found its way into cyberspace, and that which remains is swiftly following. However, we don’t agree that the Internet- specifically Google- is “chipping away” our capacity for learning. Carr’s use of “my” supports our belief that the benefit or harm that comes from the Internet is based on the individual.

This evidence refutes the belief that Google is making us stupid. Yet, does this prove that it is making us any smarter? We believe so. To display some evidence, the nature of the Internet is to supply as much relevant information as is calculated. All information may not be directly relevant to a search topic. However, loosely relevant search results open users up to new ideas and direct them to further knowledge and exploration. Whether they choose to read and learn from this is individually based, yet the Internet supplies the opportunity.

Another example of this belief is the fact that because of the speed information is retrieved and the quantity of information supplied by a single Google search, there is more time and opportunity for further learning. There is plenty of evidence that displays the nature of the Internet. Its nature and purpose is to efficiently provide the opportunity to learn through information, and we believe that because of this, Google is a tool for learning when in hands that are prepared to learn.

We live in a world that is coexistent with another- cyberspace. It evolves and advances as we do, forcing us to adapt to its nature. The Internet is a tool. A tool is only as productive or harmful as the hand of the holder, which is why we believe that Google is not making us stupid. Google exists to present the opportunity to make us smarter. It is our job to utilize it.