Stupidity is defined by dictionary as behavior that shows a lack of good senses or judgment. Carr argues that Google is making us stupid by preventing us from being able to fully immerse ourselves into texts due to the fact that we tend to rely on the computer to read them deeply for us; therefore causing reliance on the more “shallow” approach of skimming.

Skimming is just one part of the process of deeper reading, as one must skim the back of a novel before deciding to read it or a passage on a standardized test before answering the questions that follow it. If the speed of one component in a process is increased then the total speed of the process is increased, resulting in efficiency. The awareness that skimming is a skill allows individuals to moderate their dependence on the search engine, surpassing the label of “stupidity” and replacing it with resourcefulness. Carr is not specifically saying that anyone who uses Google is stupid; rather he claims extensive dependence on Google affects the way the user responds to the task of acquiring information. Those who are accustomed to getting all the information they need from skimming are inclined to be easily distracted when reading larger articles. However, those who use skimming to aid them in finding and comprehending the larger articles gain information faster and more efficiently. Computers have evolved to accomplish tasks faster, so in actuality, our brains are simply evolving. Even Carr acknowledges this when he states, “my mind isn’t going…but it’s changing.”

Carr stresses that in order to be wise; knowledge should only be acquired through careful study of the information at hand. However, wisdom is relative to perception. A conclusion that the ability to obtain information through Google is an illusion of wisdom is faulty because it does not consider the work behind the search. It involves careful attention to the details of the path taken to reach the so desired information. He believes the major application of knowledge is the interpretations from the desired information, rather than acquiring the ability to find it. Knowing how to think is what’s important; the “what to think” can always be added later. Knowledge cannot be confined to a certain category. If people are able to quickly process information, although differently than others, they can still be considered wise. However, if they already know the information, they can also be considered wise. We arrive at the fact that wisdom is in the eye of the beholder and intelligence is relative.

Merriam-Webster defines “smart” as very good at learning or thinking about things. Utilizing one’s familiarity of skimming Google results allows the individual to learn quickly which articles require a deeper read and are then able to focus completely on those articles. One could determine that this ability requires just as much wisdom as already knowing the information depending on how the wisdom is perceived. This response is because of good senses and judgment: the opposite of stupidity.