Writing Assignment Two

Google and the Internet could actually be making us smarter. Google can be utilized for many reasons, some good and some bad, depending on how the user employs it. There is a lot of technology coming out these days, and most of it is beneficial to practically everyone. For example, e-readers have made a huge impact towards making us better readers. They are easier to read and you can store many books on them. Plus, the more a person reads the better and faster they get at it. On the other hand, there have been some negative outcomes from all the shortcuts in use these days. Students used to go to a library and check out books to help with their homework. Nowadays, students go home and “Google” the answers rather than searching for information to help them. Overall, In my opinion, technology is still making us better readers. But again, it depends on what kind of technology the person is using and how they use it. For instance, different types of writing have been around for thousands of years, but technology ,in its style of writing, has only been around for about twenty years. Almost everybody I know uses technology to write, text, tweet, and instant message. Our great ancestors didn’t have technology to write with, but with the tablets and laptops now you can type books instead of writing them. Soon in the future there will be no need for paper, pencils, or ink.

The Roman philosopher Seneca may have put it best 2,000 years ago: “To be everywhere is to be nowhere.” Today, the internet grants us easy access to unprecedented amounts of information. But a growing body of scientific evidence suggests that the Net, with its constant distractions and interruptions, is also turning us into scattered, superficial thinkers. Writer Nicholas Carr proposed it’s not specifically Google that has allowed our society to obtain near boundless amounts of information at the click of a mouse, but the internet in general. According to Carr, quickly retrieving mountains of data results in users skimming content rather than carefully reading and fully intellectualizing it. The result is a shortened attention span, and a growing inability to concentrate or read long texts. My team’s generations of people don’t necessarily know how to critically think anymore. At least that’s what I have noticed in my school. In our science classes we are always asked questions titled “Critical Thinking”. In our experience, when we are asked to critically think we automatically refer to Google or the internet for our answers. However, if we are asked the same question verbally, in person, instead of on paper, it forces us to actually think and it’s like we don’t know where to begin with our thinking process. So, in order to argue that Google is making us smarter we are forced to realize that we, the next generation, will have to strive to use the internet appropriately and push ourselves to work smarter.