Writing Prompt Number 2

The year is 1996; Larry Page and Sergey Brin, a couple of Stanford students start a search engine by the name of BackRub. One year later this same, small search engine becomes the globally recognized Google.com. How could one possibly know this information without doing research, without going to a library and spending hours on top of hours trying to find the correct timeline to the creation of Google? Easy, instead of going to the library and finding a book on Google’s history, one could just type the question, “when was Google made?” into the Google search engine and within seconds be provided with a seemingly infinite number of results on the topic. One could simply “google it”.

But people don’t always agree that the application of technological innovations is the right approach to solving any question/ problem. Nicholas Carr however believes that google, and the internet in general is making us- stupid. I however strongly disagree. We ask questions all because it’s a part of being human. But most times, do we actually know the answers to those questions? In the age of technology, instead of referring to a paperback in the public library, we want the answers to our “burning” questions now, as quickly and efficiently as possible. I have personal experience myself with answering the burning question. I’m wondering what the legal definition of rape is- an assignment for a research paper- and less than a second later I have a page of good sources to give me the definition and so much more. One of which was a PDF file from the FBI only available on the internet. This quick and effective use of the internet helped me to ace the research paper.

In the Nicholas Carr article an argument is made, which brings up the topic of scanning. It was said that when we scan it makes us a little more stupid. Scanning is an important asset in an information driven world. This scanning is not causing us to be stupid it is actually increasing our intelligence. It was brought up in the lecture yesterday that your brain doesn’t automatically go to a higher place of learning you have push it there. An example: you can now pick out the important information and get rid of the nonessential parts and then you only have to remember that small section. Scanning also increases your speed of reading and processing information. Scanning has made us not more stupid but on the contrary more intelligent.

Has Google made us easily distracted or is it rather that they provide us with the ability to multi task more often? Carr’s article brought up that we are easily distracted and the reason that we’re fidgeting is because of a need to do more in less time. We are kind of like a BoeBot without the end command. We are searching for the next command and waiting for the next command, through the globally known search engine google.