The Power of Google

Sure, it can be daunting to trade out your trusty old pen and paper for a sleek, futuristic computer, but I believe this fear is bred by ignorance. Mr. Nicholas Carr obviously knows what he is speaking about, and he poses a compelling argument. But ladies and gentleman, even the best most compelling lawyers do not win every case, simply because the evidence is irrelevant. Carr focuses on how humans can misuse the power of the Internet, and neglects to show how greatly the Internet can benefit a person.

Carr argues that it is online tools, such as Google, that have impaired his ability to fluently read and digest traditional texts, but I believe that it was Carr himself who did this. Indirectly of course, but Carr is one of the many who have misused the Internet. Carr himself says that he often uses Google to lighten his business load. It is much easier to look up the perfect quote for your article, but not nearly as engaging as pondering on works you’re familiar with. He has used the Internet as a total replacement for the logical, problem solving part of his mind. This misuse of power has consequently affected his ability to delve into the literary masterpieces of the traditional style. Therefore, Google is not the culprit, but instead Carr’s own excessive use and dependence on Google.

I would like to argue that the Google, or the Internet in general, greatly benefits the human mind. According to a 2009 meta-analysis by the U.S. Department of Education, “students who took all or part of their class online performed better, on average, than those taking the same course through traditional face-to-face instruction." This style of learning has proven to be more effective than the traditional, or pen-and-paper, method. Consequently, 27 sates offer a virtual learning option and over 1 million children participate in this innovative practice. These students disprove Carr’s claim that Internet reading negatively affect a person’s ability to comprehend literature on an intellectual level.

Google has provided people with information that was not accessible before the dawn of the World Wide Web. Carr argues that this information is in excess and causes people to ‘hop’ between sites, permitting them to become fully involved with the text and actually obtain useful information. I disagree with this claim. I do not believe it is Google that causes you to switch between web pages, but the human urge to search for ‘something more’. Carr has attempted to assign the fault of human nature to Google.

In conclusion, I believe that Carr is mistakenly blaming the side effects of his own malpractice on Google. Any person can easily learn to use Google in an appropriate manner and fully ‘digest’ an article before moving on. The information presented by search engines such as Google have proven themselves to be extremely useful in the sense that the user is being given new information that they may never have been introduced to by the old school encyclopedia. Overall Google and other similar search engines provide new information that allows users to heighten their understanding of current information and the physical environment and cyberspace as a whole.