Google Does NOT Make Us Stupid!

In the article, “Is Google Making Us Stupid,” Nicholas Carr claims that the use of technology is hindering our education and changing the way we learn. Carr is correct in saying that technology changes the way we learn. With the advent of Google we now have an unlimited amount of information right at our fingertips. Another notion of his is that we will ultimately rely on computers for everything. While we are dependent on the technology in many aspects of our lives, there is still a balance between technology and the “old-fashioned” methods that have been around longer than any electronics involved in society today. Technological innovations such as Google have made us change the way we learn today, but change is not always a bad thing.

           Nicholas Carr’s statements about our generation’s education do not focus on the intelligence of the students, but on the attention span and patience of students and adults alike. In the article, Carr quotes many people who say that they can hardly read long articles on the internet, let alone novels. This does not correspond to the fact that students learn valuable information in seconds every time they search for material in Google. On the Internet, information that might otherwise be left out of textbooks, dictionaries, and encyclopedias, is found in minutes. In addition to that, information such as news and statistics can be updated instantaneously. Carr is focused only on his old ways of learning, when there was no capability of using the resources we have today. He does not accept the notion that our education changes to meet the standards of society. The change does not make us stupid, just lazy.

In the article, Carr stresses on the notion that we will one day become completely dependent on computers. This would result in a lack of education because all information would be “a click away”. While we are dependent on this technology today, there is still an infinite amount of information that cannot be transferred to computers. As we saw in *Sneakers*,  information is power, and the want for power will call for the use of these non-electronic sources.  During that struggle for power the Internet can support our thinking skills, our decisions, and our education.  He has a valid reason for not wanting the world to be reliant on this type of technology, but he must realize that it is a key part of an evolving society.

           The changes of our education do not mean that the previous methods of learning have failed. Schools have begun to filter in more innovations to their curriculum for one reason: to improve the relevance of the education that they can provide for their students. Also, the computers we have today have many programs that are identical to encyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.  Technology has many uses in learning that Carr does not acknowledge. With the expanding relationship between technology and education, opinions similar to Carr’s will soon be obsolete.