The Google Tool

If a mechanic uses a wrench, does that make him stupider? If a surgeon uses a scalpel, does that make her stupider? If a teacher uses a graphing calculator, do their students learn any less? Does anyone using a tool suddenly become stupider for using it? No, no, no, and no. To put it in another way, using a tool doesn't degrade one's ability to accomplish a ply their craft, but often enhances it. And can adapt into better methods and ways to work more productively. Google is a great tool of modern life and I endorse it's use as one of many choices of tools that is in the toolbox of the modern student.

Nicholas Carr has a compelling argument, profusely stating his observances of the way people have changed around technology, while providing information and statistics to follow them up. However, declaring that Google, a tool, is making us stupid and hindering our ability to learn is a false assertion. A recent visit to Google, I was able to retrieve search statistics. According to Google, it handles roughly 49, 213 unique searches each second, every second of every minute of every day. Mr. Carr would have you believe that all of that activity is making use less intelligent. How can that be so? Granted, many of those searches are likely of questionable value on the intelligence scale, but with numbers so vast, the likelihood is also that many, very many are used for increasing intelligence.

According to Kris Holt in the article, *15 Ways Google Changed The World*, Google, the company, has had many positive impacts on our society. Since Mr. Carr doesn't reference just the search features of Google, but uses the word Google, I think he is talking about the company Google. The company Google adds to our lives, free of charge mind you, Google Docs, You Tube, Google Maps, Google Earth, the Android operating system, Goggle News, Google Glass and self-driving cars. "None of these projects would be possible without the Internet." And none would be possible without the scope and vision of the company Google.

An article written by Lisa M. Krieger and published in The San Jose Mercury News entitled *Google is changing your brain, study says, and don't you forget it* states that a recent study reveals that Google is changing our brains; we choose to remember less."When we know where to find information, we're less likely to remember it -- an amnesia dubbed The Google Effect by a team led by psychologist Betsy Sparrow of Columbia University." But this doesn't mean we're getting stupider, "Rather, it suggests that the human memory is reorganizing where it goes for information, adapting to new computing technologies rather than relying purely on rote memory. We're outsourcing "search" from our brains to our computers."

So, in conclusion, Mr. Carr seems to be the one that's misinformed, Google isn't making use stupid, it's making us different. It's increasing our possibilities and potential. It's providing an enormously useful, practical tool in our toolbox of resources that many of us are choosing to use.