Am I Stupid Because I Use Google?

Is Google making us stupid? That is the main question explored in the article by Nicholas Carr. Carr discusses why the internet, specifically Google, could be causing people’s intelligence to be diminished due to reliance on the internet for sources of information rather than relying on memory. Carr also discusses the effects on certain skills, such as the ability to interpret text. He claims that people no longer dive deep into information. Another author, Wendell Berry, also wrote about the curse of technology. In his article, he gave his rationales for not purchasing a computer and for not using any technology. Even though both authors shared their disdain for technology, they gave different justifications. While Berry emphasis is on the environmental aspect, Carr focuses on intelligence. Even though I disagree with both writers’ beliefs regarding technology, I have more issues with Carr’s article.

I believe that many of Carr’s points are faulty. One such point is that “our forming of thought rely on pen and paper.” However, I am sitting here today typing a document and thinking it thouroghly through without pen or paper. Therefore, I propose that people’s brains do not think best when writing with a pencil, rather than typing. In fact, there are books published that were not handwritten. The authors chose to type their manuscripts. If this is the case, then Carr is saying these books are not as good as the ones handwritten. I believe that Berry would disagree with Carr’s analysis because Berry stated that neither handwriting nor typing will make you a better writer because it is not what a writer uses to write, it is how he or she writes. Another reason Carr thinks the internet is “dumbing us down” is because it is filled with numerous distractions when you are reading or typing. Again his point is wrong. There can be distractions everywhere whether they are ads or real life people; however, people become desensitized to distractions and ultimately ignore them.

A topic overlooked by both of these writers and that I think should be mentioned is health and technology. Technology provides information for health care professional, patients and their relatives. Technology has transformed the medical field by providing not only information but also assistance for diagnosis.

Just because I use a search engine to find information does not mean that I am any less intellect. In fact, if I didn’t have Google to constantly look up needed information I would probably know less than I currently know. Google makes it easier to access information quickly. It may be a crutch for some people, but any search engine can help when help is needed. I, personally, use the internet to read news articles for school, look up information for papers, browse web pages, play games, and make new friends.

Personally, I think the focus should be on the good qualities, such as the health benefits that technology and even the research on the internet provide, instead of focusing on all the negative points. In my opinion, I am not stupid for using Google or any other technology.