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“Google and Human Intelligence” Essay

Google is a great way to find answers we need but it could be doing more harm than good to our brains. From the articles, “Is google Making Us Stupid?” by Nicholas Carr, “Google Effect: is technology making us stupid?” by Genevieve Roberts, and an infographic by Moran and Firth, all informs us with the most common effects on how Google is negatively impacting our minds. Using Google is affecting our intelligence in a negative way through slowing down our memory, not letting us develop our minds, and constantly distracting us.

Using Google slows your memory down making you not able to memorize the small, important details of something which can counteract with our intelligence. According to an infographic from “How is Google changing our memory?”, informs us stating, “When the information is saved externally, we usually don’t memorize it, but rather remember the place where we can find it.” This indicates that when time passes, we can no longer depend on our own memory to find things. It leaves us with having to depend more and more on Google which makes matters worse for our brains. Moran and Firth showed in the infographic, “These tools have replaced our need to memorize many details; and without these tools we may be lost.” We cannot keep trusting technology as it shows our brain to be the weakest point in our body.

Google does not give us an opportunity to develop our minds which does not strengthen our intelligence either. People find themselves to be stuck in situations in which they are not able to think clearly or confidently due to just getting straight answers from Google in which they don't comprehend. Nicholas Carr from *The Shallows: What the Internet is doing to Our Brains*, explains, "So even as Google is giving us that useful information, it's also encouraging us to think superficially. It's making us shallow." Although Google gives us answers, we do not take the time to fully interpret what we just learned. Nicholas Carr also explains, "If you're interested in developing your mind, you should turn off your computer and your cell phone-and start thinking. Really thinking." Others may argue that Google gives us fast answers so we do not have to wait and look around for them but, fast answers do not require our brains to really think and challenge ourselves. Technology is not the only option in developing strong minds in fact books and newspapers can be another great and useful resource that will challenge our minds to become stronger thinkers.

Making us distracted is one thing Google is strongly encouraged by which affects our intelligence. When one needs to be focused in terms of having more intelligence, distractions are not pleasant in this case. Nicholas Carr argues, "The Net bombards us with messages and other bits of data, and every one of those interruptions breaks our train of thought." We are constantly getting distracted by the things Google interests us in such as sponsors, advertisements, etc., and leaves us with no more time to think. The less time we take to think the less we can understand. Genevieve Roberts from "Google Effect: is technology making us stupid?" explains, "He believes the combination of the Google Effect and that constant distraction of smartphones, constantly delivering information, is concerning." Distractions are considered to be concerning

due to falling off topic which can later result in wasting valuable time if there were important research to be done. A simple distraction can lead in many ways to negatively impact how our minds will work even if a little advertisement would get in the way.

Google affects our intelligence in a negative way through slowing down our memory, not letting us develop our minds, and constantly distracting us. This is significant to understand because others have multiple perspectives on how Google affects their thinking in either a good or bad way.