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### Is Google Negatively Affecting Our Intelligence?

Google, a search engine, can supply you with endless information. It is useful when researching any topic you wish to know about. But a question remains, is Google making us less intelligent? Nicholas Carr, author of, “The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains,” and Genevieve Roberts, writer of “Google Effect: is technology making us stupid?,” both believe that Google, is in fact, making us less intelligent. Google negatively affects our intelligence because it does not allow us to think deeply, it makes us distracted, and with the effects digital amnesia.

To begin with, Google negatively affects our intelligence by preventing us from thinking deeply. Google provides a vast amount of articles to aid you in your research, but it doesn't make you any smarter, even with access to a limitless amount of information. Nicholas Carr states in “The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains,” “So even as Google is giving us all that that useful information, it’s also encouraging us to think superficially. It’s making us shallow.” By thinking “superficially,” it negatively impacts our ability to think, hence making us less intelligent. Thinking greatly contributes to our intelligence, so as Google is making us shallow thinkers, we are becoming less intelligent. Nicholas Carr also claims,” What really makes us intelligent isn’t our ability to find lots of information quickly. It’s our ability to think deeply about that information.” Nicholas’ statement reveals to be true because Google may

provide us with a lot of information, but what really determines our intelligence is our ability to analyze the information given to us. If you are not able to deeply analyze information from Google, the less likely you will retain that information. But as Nicholas had stated previously, Google makes us think “superficially.” This does not allow us to deeply analyze that information which therefore, does not make us smarter.

Moreover, Google negatively affects our intelligence because of the effects of digital amnesia. Genevieve Roberts states in the article “Google Effect: is technology making us stupid?,” “... the internet simply changes the way we handle and store information, so the ‘Google Effect’ makes us good at remembering where to find a given bit of information, but not necessarily what the information was.” Knowing what the information is about, is critical in the learning process. Knowing where to find the information you read previously wouldn’t make you smarter, whereas knowing the meaning of the information will actually positively affect your intelligence. Genevieve stated that the “Google Effect,” which is digital amnesia, changes our learning process. We are becoming better at remembering where we found information on Google, rather than knowing what the information meant. Genevieve also informs, “The Kaspersky Lab concludes we don’t commit data to memory because of the ‘Google Effect’ -we’re safe in knowledge that answers are just a click away, and are happy to treat the web like an extension to our own memory.” According to Genevieve, we don’t learn from the information we find on Google. Instead, we perceive the internet as being a place where we could always go back to find answers.

To add on, Google negatively affects our intelligence because it makes us distracted. One such distraction are ads, which are meant to target us on Google. Nicholas Carr declares in “The

Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to our Brains,” “The Net bombards us with messages and other bits of data, and every one of those interruptions breaks our train of thought. We end up scatterbrained.” It is difficult to concentrate on Google while there are many distractions.

Nicholas states that these distractions make us “break our train of thought,” and that is very much true because it prevents us from focusing. Nicholas also says, “If we’re distracted, we understand less, remember less, and learn less.” These distractions are capable of doing all those things, which makes learning while browsing on Google, difficult. Others may argue that one can simply ignore these distractions and therefore, become smarter by learning from Google. The truth is, you can try to ignore these distractions but it is not an easy task to do. Distractions negatively affect our ability to learn, which as a result, makes us less intelligent.

To sum it all up, Google negatively affects our intelligence. It is capable of doing this by not allowing us to think deeply, making us distracted, and with the effects of digital amnesia. Google may supply us with lots of information, but we have to learn how to deeply analyze it. Distractions are an obstacle constantly found on Google that prevent us from learning and becoming smarter. It can be overcome by downloading an ad blocker which can get rid of most of these distractions. Google may negatively affect our intelligence, but it is a useful resource nonetheless, as it provides us a vast amount of articles and information.