

Is Google Making Us Stupid?

In *The Atlantic's* article "Is Google Making Us Stupid?", Nicholas Carr discusses how he feels that society's reliability on using the internet for answers is hindering our ability to focus on longer tasks and keeping our brains from being used to their full potential. In his article, Carr shares, "For me, as for others, the Net is becoming a universal medium, the conduit for most of the information that flows through my eyes and ears and into my mind." Essentially he is saying that not only does using the Internet, or more specifically "Google", give us immediate answers without having to think for ourselves, but it is also changing and shaping the overall process of thought. Rather than reflecting on what needs to be answered, the mind immediately reaches out to a computer or other device with Internet access to aid, or take over, the thought process. Additionally, he adds that the Internet is influencing our traditional media due to the fact that the audience's expectations have changed and their familiarity with certain methods and products have altered as well. For example, Carr explains that television has acquired text ads that crawl across their screen and newspapers have shortened their articles because they expect our generation to skim lengthy articles anyways. Thus making his point clear, he ends his article with, "As we come to rely on computers to mediate our understanding of the world, it is our own intelligence that flattens into artificial intelligence." One cannot simply expect to use their intelligence to it's full potential by consulting a machine habitually. Although this article could be mistaken as bias,

Carr uses various studies, polls, and references to back up his argument and make for a strong article. He measures how great of an impact Internet and technology are making in our society and how fast it's decaying our natural and instinctive thought process.