

Sofia Barrows

Per. ¾

2-2-17

Google and Its Effects

A recent study can show that 90 percent of people today are suffering from digital amnesia. Technology is everywhere today, one of the biggest and well known search engines, Google, is used constantly for its infinite answers and websites it has to offer. Resources like Google might be negatively affecting our intelligence and memory recall in ways we haven't seen before. "Google Effect: Is Technology Making Us Stupid?", an article by Genevieve Roberts, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?", an article by Nicholas Carr, and "How is Google Changing Our Memory?", an infographic by OnlineColleges.net, are all sources used. Google is negatively affecting our lives because it weakens our memory recall, we don't think deeply about information, and it lowers our attention span.

First, one way Google is negatively affecting our intelligence is because it weakens our memory recall. On the internet, every piece of information is just one click away, but once you see the information, people don't usually put much thought into remembering it. OnlineColleges.net states in their infographic that, "When the information is saved externally, we usually don't memorize it, but rather remember the place where we can find it." This explains how when we don't push our minds to remember what we read or saw online, our brains tend to only remember the source of the information, not the information itself. I think this is due to people knowing that the internet is infinite and that if you only remember the source, maybe people see it as more worthy of being remembered than the actual thing you were looking for, since the world is all about links and websites nowadays. Also in today's world, phones and other devices are likely to save information and data for you so you have no need to memorize anything, but maybe this relieves people from memorizing things a bit too much. Genevieve Roberts notes in her article, "While those of us who grew up in a landline-only world may also remember their friends' home numbers from that era, we are unlikely to know their current mobiles, as our phones do the job." This explains how people rely on phones and the internet to remember their information for them, rather than memorizing things themselves. I've heard people say that memorizing things easier takes a bit of practice, so if people are always relying on the internet, it could possibly be bringing down people's memorization skills as a whole. Because of this, it shows how Google is negatively affecting us and our intelligence.

Next, Google is negatively affecting our intelligence because we don't think deeply about information. When you read an interesting fact of Google, or see something surprising, do you ever just stop and think thoroughly about it? Probably not. Nicholas Carr says, "The fact is, you'll never think deeply if you're always Googling, texting, and surfing." This tells us how that since people are usually multitasking when they're online and never grasp the interesting details that can allow them to go into deep thought about something. The internet might not be wanting

us to stop and have deep thoughts for their advantage. Carr also states, “The net bombards us with messages and other bits of data, and every one of those interruptions breaks our train of thought.” This explains how we are constantly distracted and moving quickly, causing us to skim past details that might spark inspiration and deep thought. The internet, especially Google, is hoping that we search quickly so they can benefit from the distractions that come in the way. This shows how Google is negatively affecting our intelligence.

The last reason Google is negatively affecting our intelligence is because it is lowering our attention span. Ads may be the problem of this and even studies can show changes. Genevieve Roberts states, “A Microsoft study found the average human attention span fell from 12 seconds in 2000 to eight seconds today.” The distractions caused by the internet are causing this. Ads pop up consistently when you search something up, which drives people away from what they were originally searching for. Carr states in his article, “The greater our concentration, the richer our thoughts.” This shows us how concentration is the only way to really intake information. With distractions everywhere, that makes it impossible. Of course, the internet does help us find information instantly, but the reasons above show Google is negatively affecting our intelligence.

All in all, Google is negatively affecting our intelligence and ability to think critically. Technology being the greatest invention of this time and it being used for almost everything, it is important that we know how it can affect us in this way. This issue applies globally and we don’t want the whole world to have these difficulties just due to search engines like Google. Google is negatively impacting our intelligence because it weakens our memory recall, we don’t think deeply about information, and it lowers our attention span.