

EBA#3

We all use Google at some point, whether you'd like to admit it or not. Finding that bit of information we need in a matter of seconds is really useful. However, it may be negatively affecting our brains. Nicholas Carr and Peter Novig both agree that we can find lots of useful information on Google. However, they disagree on what that can do to our brains. In, Nicholas Carr's article, "The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains", he provides his arguments as to why Google is negatively affecting our brains. Another article titled, "Google Effect", explains that there are two sides to the problem as well. Lastly, an infographic by Morar and Fifth provides more details from both sides of the argument. I agree with Carr, that Google is negatively affecting our brains, because we don't think deeply about the information we see on Google, and our memory and attention skills lower overtime while using the internet

To begin, we do not think deeply about the information we see on Google. We learn not just by observing the information, but by the way we interpret that information. As Carr states in his article, "It's our ability to think deeply about that information. And deep thinking, brain scientists have discovered, happens only when minds are calm and attentive." I know from experience that sometimes, I don't really think about the information I see. For instance, I needed to find out information on Copernicus, so I went on Google and searched 'Copernicus'. I then clicked on the first website I saw. I looked for the information I needed, and copy-pasted it in a document. Of course, I paraphrased it, but I still wasn't using my brain to make more connections and think deeply about the information. Because I found the information so quickly,

it negatively impacted my ability to analyze the text. It is not just our ability to interpret, but the information itself. Moran explains in their infographic that “ the internet is filled with incorrect information, which may lead to being misinformed.” My seventh grade math teacher once told us a story about her son. He was doing a report on the brain, and he needed to find additional sources of information. He found a website, only to find out shortly after submitting his report that it was made by a seven year-old. He got a low score because of the misinformation. With our brain being misinformed by Google, it is negatively being impacted.

Moreover, Google, or the internet in general, has a negative effect on our memory and attentive skills. Carr stated that we are more likely to learn when we are calm and attentive. The internet, however, makes us distracted from learning. Carr explains that, “ If we’re distracted, we understand less, remember less, and learn less. That’s the problem with Google... when we use our computers and cell phones all the time, we’re always distracted.” It has happened to me before, that I would be on a website, then five minutes later I would be watching a video. That cycle continues, making it negative on my brain. We just click links because we want to, not realizing that Google is manipulating us. They are distracting us from learning. Our memory is also getting worse overtime. Before Google, found by Moran, “ we would find ways to memorize what we are needed to know by leveraging our visual memory, being genuinely interested in the information, creating associations, and more.” However, “ when the information is saved externally, we usually don’t memorize it, but rather remember where the place where we can find it.” Because the information is all on Google, there is no need to make flash cards, or take notes. But as Carr stated formerly, we learn based on our ability to interpret information we see. Google is negatively affecting our memorization skills for this reason.

Although Peter Novig argues that internet users are more likely to have diverse ideas, he needs to view the whole picture. Not everything we see on the internet is true, so those ideas may not be based on fact.

In conclusion, I agree with Nicholas Carr, in that Google is negatively impacting our brains and intelligence. This is because we don't interpret the information we see on Google, and it has a negative effect on our memorization and attentive skills. We all use Google, and it's okay to use it. Try not to use it that often, though. Next time you need information, go to the library, find a book, and take notes. Google may be free, but it is not the most accurate source of information.