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ELA, Period ¾

Evidence-based Argumentative Writing -- "Google & Human Intelligence"

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Both Nicholas Carr and Peter Norvig pretty much get along in general but something that will get them into an argument is whether Google is negatively affecting our intelligence or not. Many may agree with Peter Norvig and many may agree with Nicholas Carr, when everyone should agree with Nicholas Carr because he is the one who says that Google is negatively affecting our intelligence. According to various sources titled, "Is Google making us stupid," by Nicholas Carr and Peter Norvig, "Google Effect: Is Technology Making Us Stupid?," by Genevieve Roberts, and "A Study of Students Online Research Behavior," by Moran and Firth, within them there are many pros and cons that argue whether Google is having a negative impact with our brain or not. Google is having a negative impact with our brain and here's why, now our brain isn't learning anything because we just look up anything we have to ask online, the internet has many tools or misleading sources that can affect our intelligence because then we will learn the wrong ideas, and the internet can be a distraction to our intelligence.

Google is having a negative impact with our intelligence for three reasons, the lack of learning things because we just look of question, misleading sources online, and distractions online. The first reason how Google is negatively affecting our intelligence is that now our brain isn't learning anything because we just look up anything we have to ask online. These new technological sources are affecting our brain in a way that makes it seem like a everyday habit and may interfere with our intelligence growth. In an infographic by Moran and Firth, titled, "A

Study of Students Online Research Behavior,” it states, “ Our new habits interfere in the development of deep conceptual knowledge.” This just restates what was mentioned before and yes this is very true because we all have experienced this and still might. We all look up things we don’t know for math homework, essays, etc. This might seem okay but in reality this is having a negative impact with our intelligence because instead of trying to figure out things with our naked brain we look up questions we have. We are now thinking “superficially,” according to Nicholas Carr. According to an article titled, “Is Google making us stupid,” by Nicholas Carr and Peter Norvig, it states, “ So even as Google is giving us all useful information, it’s also encouraging us to think superficially. It’s making us shallow.” Right here, superficially means not thoroughly or deeply, so this means that we aren’t thinking things clearly and just using the internet to just use it. This can lead to have a low intelligence. But another thing that Google can have is misleading facts or sources that can also affect our intelligence negatively.

There are three reasons for how Google affects our intelligence negatively and these three reason are, the lack of learning things because we just look of question, misleading sources online, and distractions online. So the next idea we are going to talk about is misleading sources online. There are many sources online that you might not know but not all those sources are credible. As stated in the infographic titled, “ A Study of Students Online Research Behavior, by Moran and Firth, “ The internet is filled with incorrect information which may lead to being misinformed.” (This means that our brains can sometimes be misinformed leading it to have a negative affect to our brain) We should be extra alert of all the tools online because these misleading facts can mess up our intelligence. These misleading facts can also make us lose memorization because if we just use these misleading facts, soon we won’t bother in using our

brains and only use the incorrect information which can lead us to be lost. For instance, Moran and Firth point out that, “ These tools have replaced our need to memorize many details; and without these tools we may be lost.” In many ways we should agree with this because we are now just trying to look up the answer to our problems instead of using our own intelligence to figure things out. We shouldn’t rely on things we don’t need because we already have our own computer and that computer is our brain. In conclusion, the internet is full of incorrect sources or ideas that can lead for us to be misinformed and can also cause distractions.

The third reason from the three reason on how Google is having a negative impact with our intelligence is by distracting us. We may not notice this but we get really distracted and within a second. As noted in an article titled, “ Is Google Making Us Stupid?,” by Nicholas Carr and Peter Norvig, “ If we’re distracted, we understand less, remember less, and learn less. That’s the problem with Google --- and with the Internet in general. When we use our computer and our cellphones all the the time, we’re always distracted.” This happens because of all the ads or things we see online. For example, pretend you are doing your homework on the computer and you are browsing, trying to find articles for your essay, and all of a sudden an ad on shoes that are on sale comes out and you see it, you want to see what kind of shoes they are don’t you. Well that is the problem we are having because now that you are distracted shopping for shoes on Amazon or whatever, your intelligence is getting lower and lower. Maybe you can’t prevent this but the more time we are off of electronics the better for our intelligence. An example here is from the same article titled, “ Is Google Making Us Stupid?,” by Nicholas Carr and Peter Norvig, it states, “ Google doesn’t want us to slow down. The faster we zip across the Web, clicking links and skimming words and pictures, the more ads Google is able to show us and the

more money it makes.” Google is having a great impact with our society which can cause many people to have a low intelligence growth. The more money Google makes, the more distracted we are going to be later on in the future. We should stay alert of all the dangers that we are getting into. Google is affecting our intelligence in a negative way and by distracting us is one of them.

So as you can from the considered above, Google is negatively affecting our intelligence with three reasons, by preventing us from learning anything, by misinforming us, and by distracting us. Many people may have different perspectives towards this topic but one thing is for sure Google is negatively affecting our intelligence. People should understand how important this topic is and stay alert of what Google or the Internet is doing to our brains or intelligence and how it is affecting our society big time. In conclusion, Nicholas Carr is correct in saying that Google is negatively affecting our intelligence. BEWARE!