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Is Google Negatively Affecting Our Intelligence?

It takes less than a minute for an individual to search up information about pretty much any topic on Google. Google makes ones' lives easier with just one click since we have access to free information. In today's society, technology is evolving into something that will have a large impact in everyday lives. In various articles such as "*Is Google Making Us Stupid?*" and "*Google Effect,*" there are many different perspectives on whether or not Google positively or negatively affects us on a day to day basis. However, Google might be doing something to our brains. Google is negatively affecting our intelligence due to the fact that it makes us scatterbrained, the human memory is decreasing, and our ability to think is lessening.

First and foremost, Google is affecting us since it is making us scatterbrained. Many believe the cause is that we are always on our phones and computers. In today's world, people are constantly surrounded by technology. As stated in "*The Shallows*" written by Nicholas Carr, the author implies, ""The Net bombards us with messages and other bits of data, and everyone of those interruptions breaks our train of thought." Essentially, Nicholas Carr is saying that we are surrounded by so much information and ads that result in us being overwhelmed and confused. For instance, if a person is going to a store to buy a particular item and there is a lot of other brands of the same item, then that person will be tempted to buy more than what they came for. This situation is very similar to what is happening when one is searching information on the web.

The person will be distracted since there are too much information and other bits of data that will move the focus off of what they were searching for in the first place. In addition to being bombarded, there is also another reasoning to why Google is distracting us. According to Nicholas Carr, he writes, "Google doesn't want us to slow down." As one knows, there are many ads and pop ups when searching the web. The more ads and pop ups we encounter, the more money Google makes. The more ads and popups one comes across, the more one will be tempted to click on it. This will leave us scatterbrained and distracted. We are not focusing on what we are supposed to look up but instead on the games and places to shop at. When one is supposed to do homework, they are tempted to click on the promotion of other games which will take them longer to do homework than the usual time. In conclusion, Google is making us less intelligent due to the fact that it is surrounding an individual with a little too much information. This will result in us not thinking deeply. However, being scatterbrained is not the only reason to why we are losing our intelligence.

Secondly, Google is changing our memory. In other words, the human memory is decreasing. Studies have shown that we do not recall memories like we used to. To illustrate this, the infographic by *onlinecolleges.net* states, "Without Internet access, if we wanted to know something we had limited source options to research it." Back in the days when web was not a thing yet, we would have to go to a library to research about a topic we do not know. By doing so, there is more likely chance we are able to memorize it. Although one might say that when searching on Google, we are also able to memorize the information, that is not true. Our minds may think since the data is just one click away, we do not have to memorize it. If a person is assigned to write an essay about William Shakespeare and had no idea who he is, he/she would

have to go sit in a library for hours to learn and write about him. It took that person a long time to be able to acknowledge who Shakespeare is so one would bet that the information would be drilled into their brain. Furthermore, we could also spend time away from the internet to create permanent memories. As stated in "*The Independent Tech*" the author writes, "Experts like Dr. Wimber advises people to spend time offline to safeguard their memories." Essentially, the best way to memorize what we had learned is to experience it. If a dad were to teach his daughter how to ride a bike, he would not be showing her videos on Google to train her how to ride a bike. He would have to take her out to a park and physically teach her that way she would have experience one on one. Since most people are always on their phones and computers, they will not have real life memories of events which will result in our brain's memory decreasing. Our minds are so used to being in an environment that answers are right in front of us that we will lose the ability to have long term memory. In order to create long term memory, we have to view it from a first person point of view and not a camera lens. To conclude, Google is one of the big factors to why our human brains are decreasing. Everything is online now and we are not able to have any involvement in the issue. Despite that, Google is making us making us less intelligent in another way.

Finally, our ability to process and think about a topic is lessening. The way we used to think about a situation is through deep research and analysis but now it is a whole different way. We are capable of more than we think we can do and Google is not helping with that. For instance, the infographic reveals that "with the internet, everything is just one click away." When we are unsure about something, we automatically go to Google for answers since it is the fastest and easiest way. This right here decreases our ability to think. When a student is solving a

difficult math problem with just their notes, he/she is putting pieces together to find a solution. If they were to use Google, they would most likely just write down the steps and the answers without truly knowing how to do the problem. Their capability to process the steps will weaken over time since he/she is not solving it by themselves. Additionally, there will be bad consequences when relying on Google to acknowledge a topic. The infographic explores the effects Google has on us by explaining that, "Our new habits may interfere in the development of deep, conceptual knowledge." Google is intruding on our ability to relate one thing to another. For example, if a student understands the concept of mathematics, they will be able to apply this to new situations and real-life events. However, Google is making this ability harder. With answers being just one click away, we are not able to analyze data deeply. This can cause one to think that since the internet has all the answers, they do not have to do any thinking. In conclusion, Google is the reasoning to why our capability to think is lessening.

To sum up, Google is not positively affecting our lives most of the time. Google is ruining our intelligence because it makes us scatterbrained, the human memory is decreasing, and our ability to think is lessening. Over time, our future generations may rely less and less on their minds and more on the internet. If we keep depending on the internet to help us succeed in life, there may be an opposite effect. Whether or not Google is making us less intelligent is a very controversial and ethical issue. One side can argue that Google has made us smart both individually and as a whole while another side can agree to the fact that Google is getting in the way of our brilliance. We can also be counting on information and data that is false. One day, our technology can turn into something that our human brains might not be able to handle and the impact is still uncertain.