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English

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### Evidence-based Argumentative Essay #3

Whenever someone wants to find out something, they are most likely going to use Google for help. It is a good choice, considering Google will give you tons of information in the blink of an eye. But what are the consequences? Is Google negatively affecting our intelligence? Google is negatively affecting our intelligence because we do not really memorize the information, it causes digital amnesia, and we are most likely to get distracted using the internet. This question is discussed in Nicholas Carr's The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains, "Google Effect: is technology making us stupid" by Genevieve Roberts, and the infographic titled "A Students' Online Research Behavior" by Moran and Firth.

To begin with, we do not necessarily memorize the information we find, instead we memorize where we find it on the web. According to The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr, he states, "What really makes us intelligent isn't our ability to find lots of information quickly. It's our ability to think deeply about the information." This connects to how most people know how to find information, because with Google, it is just a click away. But that's not what makes intelligent. It is how we analyze and take in the information we discovered. Also in the infographic by Moran and Firth, it says, "When information is saved externally, we usually don't memorize it, but rather remember the place where we can find it." When it said "saved externally", that made me think of computers and phones because I feel like technology is another part of our brains in which we store

memory. But most info is going to the external “brain” and that’s why we tend to use Google to answer questions instead of actually memorizing the information and not having to do that.

Secondly, Google and the Internet in general cause digital amnesia. In the article “Google Effect: is technology making us stupid”, it defines “Google Effect” as “the knowledge that answers are just a click away, and are happy to treat the web like an extension to our own memory”. Genevieve Roberts, the author of the article, states, “A recent study... suggests 90 per cent of us are suffering from digital amnesia. More than 70 per cent of people don’t know their children’s phone numbers by heart...” This shows that technology is preventing from memorizing most of the knowledge we learn everyday. Also in the infographic by Moran and Firth, it states, “ These tools have replaced our need to memorize many details; and without these tools we may be lost.” I agree because when we didn’t have Google, we got most information from books or newspapers and magazines, or even by friends and family. There were no distracting ads in a book, but maybe in the newspapers and magazines. But the “old ways” allowed to memorize the facts preventing amnesia.

Lastly, we are most likely to get distracted and learn even less than what we were supposed to. In The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to our Brains by Nicholas Carr, he states, “And deep thinking, brain scientists have discovered, happens only when our minds are calm and attentive. The greater our concentration, the richer our thoughts. If we’re distracted, we understand less, remember less, and learn less.” I see the author emphasized the word less, and that’s the problem with Google. It has many distractions that make you lose your concentration. 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. We end up scatterbrained.” The Internet gives you the the information you need , but also gives you extra, unnecessary information as well. Although there are many arguments like how Google gives us the

info we need and can get more “creative and informed solutions” (Norvig, The New York Times Upfront). The Internet does negatively affect our intelligence.

To conclude, Google is negatively affecting our intelligence in three ways: we do not memorize the information, instead remember where we found it, it causes digital amnesia, and it gets us distracted causing us to learn less. Google is one the most used search engines, so it is important to make sure we gain rather than lose. Today, most people get instructions or tutorials on the web. I guess it just depends on the user.