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Is Google negatively affecting our intelligence?

Almost everyone today has access to the internet and Google, making it easier to find information but harder to memorize and think deeper. Google is negatively affecting our intelligence because it interferes with the development of knowledge, it has replaced the need to memorize details, and it encourages to think superficially.

First of all, Google interferes with the development of knowledge. With the internet, we don't often encode the information given to us but instead forget about it. According to an infographic by online colleges.net, "our new habits may interfere in the development of deep, conceptual knowledge." This means that with the habits of using Google, we don't get the thought or chance to realize what exactly the information actually means. By not analyzing the information, it makes it harder to think critically and realize the true meaning of information. In an article by The Independent Tech, Dr. Maria Wimber says that the Google effect "makes us good at remembering where to find a given bit of information, but not necessarily what the information was." By that, Dr. Wimber means that people depend on the internet for information but can not remember the actual information given. We know where to get the facts, we just cannot remember them when we need them.

To add on, Google has replaced the need to memorize details. We do not remember details like people used to, due to the internet. According to an infographic by online colleges.net, it argues that "When the information is saved externally, we don't memorize it, but rather remember the place where we can find it." We remember Google and other websites, but not what they state or argue. It has replaced the need to memorize details on a certain topic that we might need. According to an article by The

Independent Tech, Betsy Sparrow argues that "Our brains rely on the internet for memory in much the same way they rely on the memory of a friend, family member, or co-worker." By this she means that we remember less through information than by knowing where it is available to us. Google has its good values and bad ones, but we shouldn't forget the facts.

Finally, Google encourages people to think superficially. Google distracts us from reality therefore making us understand, remember, and learn less. According to Nicholas Carr, the internet in general is making us shallow. On the other hand, Google gives us endless information about almost any topic in seconds. Even though it gives us so much information, we will never be able to find out what it means or dig deeper if we are always texting and surfing the web. Nicholas Carr also stated that we can Google all the facts in the world, but it won't help us build up our intelligence if we don't analyze it. If we don't analyze the facts given and apply them to real life, we will not memorize the information.

In conclusion, Google has had a negative impact not only on us, but around the world. Over time, Google will have a bigger negative impact on society. Google has many upsides to it, but has a negative impact due to interference with the development of knowledge, it has replaced the need to memorize important details, and it encourages to think superficially.

