Does the Internet Make Us Stupid?

Does the internet make us stupid? I saw this question on The Wall Street Journal’s web page the day we were asked to browse and research topics that might interest us in doing further research. Our text book included an article called Can You Hear Me Now? by Sherry Turkle. I enjoyed reading her piece in our text because she gave examples on how people in today’s society are attached to their electronic devices. Because of her article I decided to do further research on the topic of the internet and its effect on the human physical and emotional life.


This source is good but has a lot of the same information that is found in the Nicholas Carr article. Carmichael uses other everyday examples to make sense of Carr’s article. This article would be a good source for understanding what some of the most common ideas about using the internet from some everyday people.

Carmichael is a very credible writer. She has been writing for Newsweek for some time now. She writes articles specific to health, Science, and Society. I don’t think I’ll be using too much of the information in this particular article, just some small excerpts.

Nicholas Carr provides a variety of sources in his article. It is easily seen that he has spent his time researching and gathering large amounts of data from universities and scientist. Carr explains how using the internet affects our way of thinking. To do this he has found some interesting facts, such as how long the average person stays on one page of website before going to another. He continues to share his findings regarding the ability to memorize things if a person is most likely to use the internet for a main source of learning.

Carr is a credible resource for my topic. He is writing for The Wall Street Journal. His purpose is to show that yes, there are scientific studies done that show how using the internet over time can cause us to be more distracted than anything else. It wouldn’t be helping us in any way. This article could be directed to anybody that is using the internet today.

While reading this article I noticed that there were a couple things that I do in my life that related to his arguments as to why the internet may impede one to become smarter. I feel that it is true, people are becoming too impatient with the way data and other information wants to be found.

Overall I found this article to be a good one for my topic. It will go into some depth regarding the big question if internet is good or bad.
Conger, Cristen “Is Online Social Networking Good or Bad?” Discovery News.com 28 April 2010

Conger’s article is a great source for finding information that is contrary to the information and research found in Carr’s article. It explains how facebook and other social media networks may actually be good for our health. There are also some references to researchers that agree with Carr’s thoughts. The author of the article explains, through another researcher’s studies, that the positive perspectives of using social media outweigh the negative that is said about it.

Conger is a journalist for a company that does research on a variety of topics. Discovery news has good information that will help with adding informative information. I like this article because it has a broad view on the topic. She refers to more than one researcher and their opinions.

The audience Conger intends to have read her article is anyone who uses facebook at least once a day. She makes references to facebook that may, at times, be difficult for one to understand without having the background knowledge of how facebook works.

I think this article and its insights from new researchers will work great with complementing the ideas and thoughts from the previous researchers I have found in different articles. Conger mentioned new reasons as to why social media may have a more positive than negative impact on a person’s health.
Crovitz, L. Gordon “Information Age: Is Technology Good or Bad? Yes” Sirs.com 23 August 2010

Web. 21 March 2010 http://sks.sirs.com.dbprox.slcc.edu/cgi-bin/hst-article-display?id=SSERSOL-0-8492&artno=0000306282&type=ART&shfilter=U&key=&title=Information%20Age%3A%20Is%20Technology%20Good%20or%20Bad%3F%20Yes&artno=0000306282&type=ART&shfilter=U&key=&title=Information%20Age%3A%20Is%20Technology%20Good%20or%20Bad%3F%20Yes&res=Y&ren=Y&gov=Y&lnk=Y&ic=Y

The source begins with introducing the Carr’s new book about how social media and technology are changing the way we think mentally and physically. Crovitz tries to help the reader understand and think about what today would be like without technology. Having too much information is better than lacking a lot of information.

Crovitz writes for the Wall Street Journal. The Dow Jones and Company has reproduced his writing which to me, makes it credible. I think his audience is any daily reader or anyone that has been recently involved with any conversations regarding the subject. It is an easy read but still holds its formal structure. It is another article that can be used to explain why technology is good, but at the same time bad.
Whitney, Lance “The Internet can make you smarter, experts say” CNET.com 22 February 2010

Whitney’s article focuses on informing readers that yes, the internet, according to experts can in the long run make you smarter. There are good references to recent research done on the subject. He added information on the forecasting effect of the use of the internet for the year 2020.

Whitney, to me is seen as a very credible source. He has been involved with technology for many years. He is a journalist, Web developer, and software trainer. He understands many different aspects on how technology works, benefits, and affects our society. His tone of voice throughout the article was formal. I will be able to use this article and its research to expound on the subject.