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Google & Human Intelligence

As Greek philosopher Socrates said, the current technology of today “will create forgetfulness in the learners’ souls because they will not use their memories.” This applies to Google, the search engine that delivers instant information about anything desired. However, with Google, our intelligence is negatively impacted because the length of our attention span has lowered, more is forgotten, and with untrustworthy information we could be misled.

The search engine, Google, decreases the time our attention can be focused on something, which turns us less intelligent than what we originally were. Genevieve Roberts of The Independent Tech explains, “A Microsoft study found the average human attention span fell from 12 seconds in 2000 to 8 seconds today.” This highlights that because we only have so little time to focus on one subject, we immediately become distracted and move on to another before fully processing or reading the previous one. Therefore, with the deficiency to understand the minimal information our attention allows to be revealed, we know less. The Independent Tech again confirms, “We know... that we only remember information we pay attention to... if we spend all our time online... we might miss important experiences, and not commit them to long-term memory.” As displayed before, the limited time our attention can last prohibits us

from knowing more, but since it is a distraction, it also has us be active online all the time. Furthermore, significant experiences that we could have been involved in will be forgotten.

We are forgetful of the information needed when it is typed on Google. An infographic by www.onlinecolleges.net shows, “When the information is saved externally, we usually don’t memorize it, but rather remember the place where we can find it.” As seen, instead of the actual information, the source of where it is found is remembered. Even when it indicates that there is still something remembered, it is not as effective as the actual information, as it can be a permanent memory; for example, what is taught by a teacher can be remembered most throughout the student’s life. The actual information is what is being taught, not the source. As an author of *The Independent Tech*, Genevieve Roberts elaborates, “Constantly looking up information is not an effective way to create memories.” Therefore, neither is repeatedly traveling to the source remembered. Moreover, with only small fractions of the memory of the source, we can be misled.

With our intelligence already restricted from growing further, it can drop even lower with incorrect information on Google. According to www.onlinecolleges.net, their infographic explains, “Our recall is flawed. Every time we recall a memory we also remake it [since we forget the actual information more easily]... [these] new habits may interfere in the development of... knowledge.” To clarify, we remodel the information we think is true, due to forgetfulness. This lack of remembrance leads us to trust this same information shown on the Internet. The same infographic by www.onlinecolleges.net goes on to show that, “The Internet is filled with incorrect information, which may lead to being misinformed.” This demonstrates once more that with false information filled in our heads, our intelligence of knowing what is true is fading. This

can also indicate that our knowledge to determine if something is credible or not has lowered- and possibly forgotten as well.

Google has negatively impacted our intelligence because of a shorter length of attention span, a lack of remembrance, and the actions of being misled by untrustworthy information.

Overall, this proves that Socrates is right, meaning that, as the world is expected to evolve overtime, it is instead given the view that because of us, it is worsening in the development of technology. It is important for others to agree with this reasoning so something can be done about it.