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Kingsley Section 35 Essay Assign 1

English 101

Rhetorically Analyzing Carr And Johnson

Steven Johnson is the author of “T.V Makes You Smarter” and Nicholas is the author of “ Is Google Making Us stupid?” Both of these authors agree on one thing that technology and society are linked and that society is changing drastically. Some things are easier now then they were before everything had to be done manually, without the use of technology. Johnson makes it clear he feels that television is making us smarter as a whole including him whereas Carr expresses how he thinks the Internet; specifically referring to Google is making us think less and essentially slowing down the thought process of our brains. We can agree that the two authors don’t agree on most of what the other is saying. Both Johnson and Carr thoroughly explain how the world we live in has changed because of the new media whether for the good or bad.

Johnson, in a sense is referring to television and video games for visual and hearing interpretations that are possibly helping the youth to do many things at the same time. For example someone can be playing a basketball video game or listening to the radio while doing their homework and learning both ways at the same time. Johnson

says, “The kids are forced to think like grown-ups: analyzing complex social resources, tracking subtle narrative intertwining, recognizing long-term patterns”(52). Johnson is saying his audience benefits from this ability to multi-task think and hear many different aspects. I believe Johnson is trying to say that with these multi-tasking skills that can be acquired from watching television and playing video games, it is automatically teaching them to think outside the box and to think like grown men at a young age. Johnson says “But the mind also likes to be challenged; there’s real pleasure to be found in solving puzzles, detecting patterns or unpacking a complex narrative system”. (53) Specifically referring to the youth, Johnson says that sometimes the language or dialogue that the narrator may use is hard to understand but if children start listening to them and watching the shows that use them they will be able to eventually figure out what is being said and be able to critically think. I disagree that television is making us smarter. It is making us listen better and possibly think more but it is also the main distraction for many people. It is a major downfall because a student may choose to watch their favorite show rather than study for a test or do their homework, as a society television is pushing us back, we are in some ways being brainwashed by what we see and hear.

Carr is saying the opposite; I agree with him that Google is making us stupid. He says, “they supply the stuff of thought, but they also shape the process of thought”. (2) Carr is saying if we need help with finding something out, rather than reading a book or asking someone we go straight to Google and find the answer but at the same time we are persuaded by the websites ideas and understandings rather than thinking for ourselves.

The website is doing all the thinking and we are doing all the absorbing. Carr also says, “the more they use the web, the more they fight to stay focused on long pieces of writing”

(2) Carr is making the argument that his friends as well as everyone nowadays are being deprived of their ability to enjoy a reading, our attention spans are growing shorter and we have less tolerance for any type of literature. The admiration for reading is coming to a close.