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Draft essay

Compare, what does it mean to compare and contrast? You’ve heard about it but can you explain it? Well according to answers.com compare and contrast means to “examine and note the similarities or differences of. for example: We compared notes after we had both seen the movie. Contrast means: Put in opposition to show or emphasize differences.”. In this paper, we will compare and contrast both author’s articles as well as summarizing. “How facts backfire” by Joe Keohane, and “What is internet doing to our brains, is google making us stupid?” by Nicholas Carr. The reasoning behind that is because believe it or not these two articles have much in common. What they say in the articles is very similar, for example in Carr’s article Is google making us stupid he talks about how we think different with technology taking over in a way he makes it sound bad, but that fact backfired because that doesn’t necessarily mean it’s a bad thing, maybe we are changing in a good way without knowing it.

What Joe Keohane says in his article is that google may not help you find information

that’s true. What it does is use all your search history and every time you look something up the information you’ll find will only be close to what you’ve searched, instead of considering different opinions. What Carr said was “it uses the results to refine algorithms that increasingly control how people find information and extract meaning from it”. (62) Carr also explains in the same paragraph, that since google tries to give the perfect search engine that doesn’t necessarily mean it’s good. Meaning that when you search something up it will only show what you would like to see instead of showing the correct and accurate information. According to Carr those facts can backfire, make you more stubborn on the incorrect information just because google said so. At the end Google’s facts can backfire, because of its search engine algorithms making us more gullible to false information from the internet’s misleading websites.

Nicholas Carr and Joe Keohane have very similar thinking, not to mention their articles connect in many ways. One way they connect is by saying that the human brain now in days likes to take shortcuts. At the end by taking shortcuts we don’t like to do much research when we learn something new. Doing so we like to believe it’s a fact like Keohane says “they already have beliefs, and a set of facts lodged in their minds”. (1) By already having a mindset on what they believe it’s a fact, they take a shortcut and not do anymore research to check if it’s even true. According to Carr in the article “I’m not thinking the way I used to think. I can feel it most strongly when I’m reading. Immersing myself in a book or a lengthy used to be easy”. (2) Meaning that the human brain has already gotten used to shortcuts, that even when we read a long article our brain tries to take a shortcut or it gets tired, bored. That was one of the many ways Keohane’s article relates to Carr’s.

Talking about Carr’s article, Carr talks about our attention spam as humans that we like to quick read books/articles. Carr mention many times how the human brain starts to rewire itself, doing so changing the way we think. Having the end result of trying to read little and just obtaining the information you want and need. Says Carr that the internet has so much information that our brain gets bored and “bounces” around the articles. Which ends up just scratching the article meaning reading too little. What do we do about this? Carr says that the founders of Google tried to make Google the perfect tool to search for information so instead of not using it, make the best of it. Carr says that we might be better, if humans had artificial intelligence with them. As a matter of fact, it might be better if we had our brains replaced with artificial intelligence.

So at the end, having many tools with technology is not necessarily a bad thing. Besides like many great human beings have said, sometimes change isn’t necessarily a bad thing change could also be a good. Many articles can give you lots of information about, how internet can be good some or bad. But non- of that won’t matter if you don’t look into it, because someone can believe something but that won’t make it true. Believing something doesn’t make it a fact, anyone can believe pigs can fly, but can they? That doesn’t make it a fact ask questions and answer them, but not quickly look more in depth for the information.

Works Cited

Carr, Nicholas. “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” *The Atlantic*, July/Aug.2008, pp. 56-8, 60, 62-3.

Keohane, Joe. “How Facts Backfire.” *The Boston Globe*, 11 July 2010, archive.boston.com/ bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/07/11/how\_facts\_backfire/?page=4.