**ENG 210-27**

**Writing II: Research**



**Assignment/Essay 1: 1/26/21** Rhetorical/critical reading of “Is Google Making Us Stupid?”

Carr, N. (2008, July/August). Is Google Making Us Stupid? What the Internet is doing to our brains. *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from http://www.theatlantic.com.

You can find the article online (full URL is <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2008/07/is-google-making-us-stupid/306868/> )

Use the introductory readings from Keith & Lundberg (chapters 1, 2, 3) to help guide you in answering the following questions as best you can. We will go over those chapters next class:

Rhetorical Situation:

1. Where and why did this publication arise (context, exigence)?
2. What readers does it address, and what does Carr presume those readers know, believe and value (discourse community)?
3. What other writers and positions does Carr seem to oppose (conflict, point of stasis)?
4. What does Carr hope to achieve (purpose)?

Analysis of the text (**this should be the main section**):

1. What is Carr’s central question (topos)?
2. What central claim does he make and what are his reasons (premises/logos)?
3. What kind of evidence or data does he give (backing/logos)?
4. What kind of style or persona does Carr adopt; what are his credentials (ethos)? What is the ethos of his sources?
5. How does he appeal to readers’ emotions (pathos)?
6. What is unclear after reading this?
7. What might you need to know next to better understand what Carr is saying?

The goals of this assignment are to use this reading to review and apply rhetorical concepts (and use the terminology), but also for you to do a close reading and be able to report back reasonably on what Carr is saying.

Due **Thursday, February 4**. Two to three pages in 12-point Times Roman double-spaced (longer is usually better, but not e.g. twice as long). Include the Reference/Work Cited given above, and in-text citations (Carr, 2008) for your first citation and any quotes. Since you are reading this online (I assume), there are no page numbers for quotes. APA suggests that you add paragraph numbers, but to me that is unrealistic. If printed, the article is about 15 pages, so you’d have to count a lot of paragraphs. Plus, the paragraphs can change online. Come prepared to discuss the reading and your initial analysis in class next day (part of your participation grade).