

Low-level student sample
College Writing II

A Distraction in Disguise

Almost every day I log on my laptop, tweet, and check my Facebook page. According to Nicholas Carr, author of *The Shallows*, "The net has become essential to their work, school, or social lives, and often to all three" (9). I enjoy the social network aspect of the internet as well as using it as a helpful tool in order for me to research, send mail, and shop. It is easy, quick, and convenient for me to complete my daily tasks. Although the internet is beneficial, I often find myself easily distracted with listening to music, playing games, and catching up on the latest news. The internet keeps people connected with friends and is a great tool in daily life, but it can also be a terrible distraction.

When I was a child, my mom and I used to take many trips to the post office, bank, library, and pharmacy. Over the years, the internet has expanded so much that those trips are no longer necessary anymore. It is easy for me to pay my bills online, send and receive mail with my virtual E-mail, and renew my subscription with the pharmacy website. Whenever I need to do research, I use the online libraries or look up different websites with accurate information. Carr states, "Research that once required days in the stacks or periodical rooms of libraries can now be done in minutes (pg. 6.)" It is amazing how the information I desire is so tangible. Carr believes he has become an impatient and distracted reader because of the internet and latest technology. I agree with Carr; my concentration capacity seems to be limited because I only have to read a few lines to discover everything I need to know about a particular topic. The short time it takes me to look up information gives me extra time to

"scan headlines and blog posts, follow Facebook updates, watch video streams, download music", (pg. 6) or stumble upon anything that catches my eye.

The internet has also helped me complete college assignments online. I check my grades and assignments using websites like "Blackboard" and "Turnitin". It is easy for me to complete quizzes and exams using these websites. Submitting papers through the internet helped me save paper and ink. However, my dorm room does not always have a fast internet connection. At times, this can cause great frustration in my life, even though the websites online were created for my convenience. When I do not receive an adequate internet connection where I am, I usually procrastinate until the connection reboots. The fact that my grades are dependent on my internet connection does not only bother me, but it scares me.

Shopping online has opened up a whole new world for me. It is convenient because there are never any crowds or lines behind the register. They usually have the proper size and color for the clothing I want. The internet has granted me access to shop on websites for anything imaginable. However, I always find myself browsing on websites I never intended to be on. It is so simple to click and scroll to find the latest sales on Amazon, EBay, and Craigslist. In this day and age, the advertisements on web pages are custom according to what people look up regularly. When I click on them, they end up distracting me from what I was truly searching for.

One of my favorite things to do on the internet is connect with my friends and family on Facebook. Everyone I know has a Facebook, and it allows me to communicate with them by sending a message, a poke, writing on their wall, and commenting on their photos. It is always exciting for me to add a new friend on Facebook after I meet them, and view their photos to see what interests them. Nobody likes to admit how long they spend "creeping" on Facebook, but it can be addicting looking at thousands of photos by the click of a mouse. I feel as though Facebook is a great invention in order to

keep in touch with my friends from college. I also have the option to see what is going on with people's lives that I do not get to talk to as much as I used to. I find it hard to develop a "medium" between communicating with my friends and "creeping" on their pages to see what is going on in their lives. The internet is great for administering such a time-consuming website, but I consider most of the time I spend on Facebook wasted time. I feel as though I should be working on schoolwork, or spending quality time with friends, but instead I distract and consume my life with looking at millions of photos of people I barely talk to.

The internet provides every user the opportunity to be alert of the latest news updates, ranging from local weather, to healthcare cures, to crime rates, to the media. It is great to know what is going on in the world, and the internet makes it easy to find out, without purchasing a newspaper. "Interactivity, hyperlinking, searchability, multimedia- all these qualities of the Net bring attractive benefits (pg. 91)." With all of these tempting options, it is hard not to become caught up in the virtual world everyone surrounds themselves with.

Unfortunately, my mind races while I am online, easily distracted from the outside world. When it comes to dinner time, I find myself glued to the computer, while my food continues to cool down, and my family continues to call my name to come upstairs. Although I feel like I am not missing out on much while I am home, quality time is something that will not always be as easy to access as the internet and Facebook is. Not only do I miss time with my family, I occasionally find myself rushing around before I have to go out, because I spent too much time on the computer earlier that day. Something about the internet is so hypnotizing, so addicting, which many of us are afraid to admit.

All in all, the internet has helped me in hundreds of ways. I possibly could have been more family oriented if the internet was never invented, but from time to time I would get bored without the internet's mesmerizing websites. The World Wide Web has opened up many opportunities for basically

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/ anyone. I love using Google to look up questions I am wondering about, and using Facebook to talk to my friends, but sometimes I log on too often. It is easy to say I will write my paper or read my book, but the internet has distracted me too many times, too many times which makes it an addiction.