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SWA#2 Rhetorical Analysis: Carr and Barron

My relationship with reading has changed a lot over the years, especially as technology has become a bigger part of my everyday life. When I was younger there, I remember everything mostly being read on paper, for example books from the library, worksheets, and printed articles. Reading felt slower but also calmer since I loved reading novels. I usually finished books because there were few distractions pulling my attention away and I had fun without having a phone. Over time, though, reading gradually moved on to screens like kindle, webtoon and more digital reading apps. At first, I did not think much about it, but now I understand how that shift has shaped the way I read, how I focus, and even how I process information. That is why the arguments from both Nicholas Carr and Naomi Baron really stood out to me. They both describe patterns that I have experienced myself.

Carr's argument about the internet weakening our ability to concentrate connects a lot to how I read now. He describes how his mind wants to jump around instead of staying with one long, challenging text, and I feel the same way sometimes. When I am online, especially when I read novels on my phone or laptop, I get distracted easily. I will read a paragraph, then suddenly switch to something else like going on social media or checking notifications. Even when I do not switch apps, my mind still wanders because I have gotten used to quick, fast-moving content. That is exactly what Carr means when he says that the internet trains us for speed over depth. I can still focus when I really must, but it takes more effort than before. That makes me wonder how much digital reading has affected my long-term ability to concentrate.

On the other hand, I also relate to Baron's point that digital reading has benefits and is often more convenient for students. I do a lot of schoolwork online, so reading digitally saves time. I do not have to carry heavy books, and I can use tools like highlighting, searching for keywords, or adjusting brightness. But what really stuck with me is Baron's argument that students often prefer digital reading even when they know they understand me perfectly. I like digital reading because it feels faster and easier, but when I read complicated texts on a screen, I do not absorb them as well. When something is important, like a chapter I will be tested on, I always print it if I can. Reading it on paper slows me down in an effective way and helps me stay focused, which connects directly to what Baron says about deep reading.

Thinking about both authors has made me reflect on how I want to balance print and digital reading in the future. I do not think digital reading is bad; it is necessary in many situations. But I can also see how relying on it too much has changed my habits. I skim more

than I used to, and I sometimes rush through reading just to finish them. When I read on paper, I take in the information more fully, and I notice details I would miss on screen. I think that's why Carr worries that we are losing something important when we stop reading deeply.

Overall, reading Carr and Baron made me realize that my reading experiences fit somewhere between their arguments. I understand Carr's concern about attention and deep thinking because I struggle every day. At the same time, I agree with Baron that digital reading is useful and even necessary for modern students. Writing this reflection helped me recognize how much my reading habits have changed without me noticing. Moving forward, I want to be more aware of when I am skimming, when I am distracted, and when I need to slow down and switch to print. Their argument did not just help me understand the texts; they helped me understand myself as a reader.

How SWA 2 helped me with my essay because it made me think more deeply about my own reading habits and how they connect to the arguments from Carr and Baron. While writing SWA 2, I had to reflect on whether I agreed with their ideas and use examples from my own life, which made it easier to explain their arguments clearly in my rhetorical analysis essay. It also helped me practice connecting personal experiences to larger claims, so when I wrote my essay, I could analyze the author's strategies instead of just summarizing. SWA 2 basically helped me organize my thoughts and understand the texts better and have stronger evidence to support and explanation in my final essay.