

# Wayfaring on the Ground and Onscreen: What to Abandon, What to Embrace

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Computer-based technologies have been redefining many facets of everyday life, including how we move from place to place and how we read. In the case of physical movement through space, the growing adoption of GPS systems is challenging assumptions about the importance of using internal cognitive skills to determine where we are geographically and how to get from Point A to Point B. In the case of reading, the availability of millions of text pages online is leading educators to shift their focus from teaching students to read longform linear prose to emphasizing online skills for navigating across shorter documents.

Research on physical wayfaring continues to indicate that reliance upon GPS may be compromising the brain's hippocampus, with potential serious consequences, particularly as we age. Regarding reading online, the overwhelming emphasis on navigating across documents reduces attention to linear reading, especially as students are shifting their reading platform from print to digital screen.

This talk reviews current research on both domains on wayfaring and offers recommendations for learning and for living.