The Mighty Pencil

Without the use of pencil and paper when writing letters, novels, or journals there is a loss in the thought that is incorporated into the work that you create; which then affects the sentimentality of the piece. Authentic technologies, such as pencil and paper, are better than modern-day technologies, such as computers, due to the expense, environmental hazards, privacy, and communication problems of modern-day technologies.

The first major flaw in modern-day technology is that is costs far more than it is worth, as compared to the authentic technologies. Modern-day technologies are a large burden on your pocket because they cost thousands of dollars, and yet the capabilities that the computer provides for you are the same as pencil and paper. Today, in 1990, a computer costs around $2,700, while pencil and paper cost about $1; which proves that computers are a waste of money since both computers and pencil and paper share similar outcomes. Berry argues that "[New technology] should do work that is clearly and demonstrably better than the one it replaces" (32), therefore computers are non-essential.

Secondly, new technologies do more harm than good to the environment. According to Berry, "I would hate to think that my work as a writer could not be done without a direct dependence on strip-mined coal" (31). The coal is used for energy production to power the new technologies, which results in the destruction of renewable resources. Likewise, chemical fertilizer does more harm than good to the environment. Chemical fertilizer is a new technology that is meant to increase the production of food,

but chemical fertilizers are harmful to soil, nearby water sources, and living organisms that feed off the plants that were treated with the chemical fertilizers.

Finally, if we limit ourselves to authentic technologies, we could improve communication between individuals while increasing our security. First, we improve our communication by seeing one another and looking at one another in the eyes to understand how others are feeling. Additionally, limiting your use of new technologies prevents the chance of someone obtaining your personal information through an unsecure network without your knowledge. However, you are aware of document security and location with a physical paper document.

In conclusion, Berry's argument is logical because it illustrates the unnecessary expenses, harmful effects on nature, invasions of privacy, and barriers to communication caused by society's push for new technologies.