

Wendell Berry is known for his dislike of technology due to its ability to create distance in familial relationships, ruin ecological habitats, and serve as a source of political injustice (32). However, Berry's thinking might be flawed. If anything technology brings families together, reduces pollution, and fixes political injustice. Berry may have a point that families would be more connected without a phone or computer consuming their time. Many people spend their lives on their phone rather than meaningfully bonding with their family. However, ultimately technology serves to connect us more. For instance, with the help of technology one can maintain constant contact with family members who live out of state, which actually deepen knowledge of the daily lives of family members. If one relied on the type of technology Berry is comfortable with like sending typed letters via snail mail, the mail may take a long time to contact relatives or even get lost. The instantaneous connection via technology far outweighs the cost, time, and effort of mailing a simple letter. Another point he makes is technology ruins the environment. The strip mining of mountains needed to build computers does harm the environment, but then so does the typewriter Berry is so comfortable with. After all, typewriters need a lot of paper, which results in the destruction of trees. While we can plant trees, they do not grow overnight, so in the long run, computers are more efficient and eco friendly. The last point he makes is the increase of technology results in political injustice or dishonesty. To some extent, Berry has a point given the amount of fake news. However, at the same time technology can be beneficial in the political arena because everyone can voice their opinion, which leads to more chances of change happening. Also, cultural barriers diminish because with a touch of the finger, we have access to various viewpoints from people all over the world, which can help us to better understand their perspectives. Technology does not hinder our growth. Instead it moves us forward and helps our communities grow as a whole and work together through our issues.

Another problem with Berry's argument is that his standards for acceptable technology are too implausible. Berry says that he wants technology that is smaller, more energy saving, cheaper, and sold and repaired by local shops (32). Berry's standards for technology are too demanding. Not everything he asks for can be applied right away. Everything takes time to develop, so for now, all the the technology cannot agree to everything Berry is asking for. But we can work towards the things he is asking for. In fact we already have. Phones today are smaller and thanks to developments in solar and wind power, we are moving towards becoming more eco friendly. Berry should not be so close minded and give technology a chance rather than shutting down something that might seem harmful at first, but has great benefits in the long run. Berry has not looked at the long term advances technology could make for the world and help our economy.