Don't Be a Luddite

Imagine writing an essay on a typewriter and making a typing error, but realizing your error only as you finish; resulting in you having to retype the whole essay. Imagine recording a month's worth of plant growth onto a sheet of paper, only to have a dog chew on it. Frustrating right? In his article "Why I am not going to buy a computer," Berry states that he will not use newly available household technologies, such as computers, because his current technology is working, despite the aforementioned potentials for catastrophe. While Berry makes some valid points, he should look for the benefits that our current technology can offer him.

Berry refuses to use the new technology, because he believes the current system he uses is a good system for his relationship with his wife.He claims that, In order to be technologically up to date as a writer [he] would have to sacrifice an association [he is] dependent upon" and values (32). Berry also claims "that the new technology should not replace or disrupt anything good such as family and community relationships" (32). However, if Berry's wife used a computer she could spend less time retyping the whole paper and make all the corrections at once. The papers could be edited faster and done earlier. So, if he had a computer, he and his wife could still keep the same relationship, while the time it takes to complete his work will be reduced he can spend more time with his wife.

Berry believes that technology is a lie sold by advertisers, he says"I have seen their advertisements, attempting to seduce struggling or failing farmers into the belief that they can solve their problems by buying yet another piece of expensive equipment'' (32). However, if Berry gave computers a chance, he would find that the advertisers are not just selling him something to break the farmers' banks. Farmers are able to store, and access, more data regarding their farming practices. The use of computers doesn't mean he has to use different things to grow the crops; rather it could help him improve the crops through careful tracking of

the soil and plants. For example, at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas put all of their data in computers and can go back years to review the eating habits and health of the animals to ensure they receive the best care. Berry could use the same system to make sure his animals are fed well and taken care of by his family.

To conclude, Berry should invest in a computer to help him with his work. Berry can use the computer to improve the environment rather than destroy it. The use of computers can improve quality of life, save trees, and help the animals.