In Wendell Berry’s essay, there are periods when he explains his views on technology. He goes on to talk about the cost, relationships with humans, and how it does more harm than help. His analysis is flawed in some ways, but his overall approach is excellent.

The cost for technology is very high in today’s modern era because electronics are not made to last. If a laptop you buy is very durable and can last at least a decade, then $200 won’t seem like too much money spent. But, if this laptop only lasted about 2 years and you continuously have to buy new ones over a period of time then we get a clear ratio. I would most definitely prefer $200 for 10 years over $1000 collectively for 10 years. It also is more energy efficient to use a typewriter which only involves light and mechanical energy. A computer uses electrical, chemical and heat energy. Even though more and more computers these days are becoming more energy sufficient, it is still more consumption in computers than in typewriters.

Berry also explicitly talks about his relationship with his wife and her editing of his work. He has stated that she is his best critic. When you are around someone for more than half of your entire life, you would start to understand the way they process things. A computer can also do this if programmed, but how would his wife feel? It is possible that his wife enjoys this duty and it makes her feel more important. If a computer takes this job from her, they might spend less time together and it could cause unhappiness. She might feel completely obsolete. He shows that their relationship improves as they spend more time together.

Berry’s technology indictment is correct in some pieces of indictment. A few examples are Microsoft, nuclear weapons, and television. Microsoft enables computers to edit misspelled words for them. That harms the writer because eventually they become less literate. If they constantly rely on a computer to do the work for them, as a writer that makes them lazier. Another example is that nuclear weapons may seem like they make countries look “tougher” but in actuality, it just endangers the world. When many countries around the world have nuclear weapons, any country can be obliterated, causing each to be very cautious. Everyone is afraid of being attacked without warning because the only thing they have is the country’s word, which could be unreliable. If one country is destroyed, the domino effect begins and eventually the human population is destroyed because humans fend for their survival. Television is one last example of showing that technology can be more harmful than helpful. These days, television is filled with propaganda and useless entertainment and it consumes so many people’s time. Berry’s indictment does make sense, but only for certain technological advances.