Dear Mr. Berry,

The purpose of your original article was to defend your writing method against an invasion of technology with which you disagree. However, it has evolved from that first objective and has become a piece questioning the ethical ramifications of technology use and challenging minds to think outside the realm of cultural norm. We have great respect for your opinion, insight, and passion. You defend your position with steadfastness and intelligence. However, we do not fully agree with your stance on computer technology.

We agree with your attitude about the fact that school books are being replaced by computers. In the past, students had to go to libraries to physically look up information. Now, answers are available at the click of a button. Because of these technological advances, our generation has become impatient and complacent. Children do not have the perseverance to pursue new activities; they expect to be handed a participation trophy and be done with it. Television has contributed largely to this trend, and with the rise of streaming programs like Netflix, we’ve lost the patience to sit through five minutes of commercials. However, technology extends far beyond mind-numbing entertainment.

Computers have paved the way for hundreds of advances that improve our society. We have programs that allow us to edit photos, design devices, and create music. With technology, we have improved health care, streamlined long-distance transactions, and created an endless bank of information. In your essay, you are mainly concerned with writing. Your reasoning implies that words written on a word processor are somehow of lesser quality than those written by hand. In the end, it’s all just characters on a paper whether they are ink or pixels. Granted, the population has seen a decrease in basic spelling and grammatical awareness due to spell check programs, but online writing is easier to format, share, and save. This is not to say that we believe that your preference of handwriting your work is invalid. However, computers are a tool, just like your typewriter or pencil, and the goal is the same.

In your essay, you describe the optimal criteria for a new version of old equipment. We must admit, technology today is not meant to last for extended periods of time, unlike your heavy-duty typewriter, so it is difficult to find a device that satisfies all the standards. However, we think the e-reader falls into as many categories as possible. It is cost-effective, energy efficient, and book-sized, and it arguably performs as well or better than a physical book. This is all a matter of opinion, though, just like your stance on word processors because e-readers also disrupt the tradition of book-collecting.

Thank you, Mr. Berry, for providing us with this opportunity to reflect on our use of technology. We understand and admire your opinion on computers, but we do not see this topic as black or white. Technology can be a great asset, but as with everything created by humans, it has its flaws.