A Response to “Why I am NOT going to buy a computer.”

Unlike many who would disagree, we agree with Wendell Berry’s opinion against the purchasing of a computer. We acknowledge and support his logical reasons outlined in the article “Why I am NOT going to buy a computer.” Berry gives details which prove the uselessness of computers in his life and the future effects of the mass purchase of computers.

Berry placed an emphasis on the effects of computer use on the environment, especially the increased energy usage. The writer suggests that if this machine is better it should be smaller, cost less and energy efficient. He also list other traits that would make the computer more cost effective. As he relates to his writing, he suggests that he would buy a computer when “another” Dante comes along *and* that author’s great writings could be attributed to computer use. Should everyone begin buying computers, we may become a society with no real intelligence and become limited to the knowledge contained in the files on a hard drive. An example of this can be illustrated with a simple task, writing a friendly letter. Most of us only write friendly letters for class and our correspondence with our friends and family consists of very brief text messages. Lost to us are the long event-filled letters from our friends and family in other places.

Adding to Berry’s belief that the use of computers will eliminate his relationship with his wife, we agree that computers have the potential to take over all manual labor. His wife is his secretary and his use of a computer could render her job obsolete. We have social network sites like Facebook and Twitter. We chat daily with people we have never met, but do not speak to our siblings across the table. We text to each other instead of talk to each other. True social interaction is being replaced with cyber relationships that for the most part have no real value. The way we see it is technological inventions will eventually cause us to abandon original thought and will eventually think for us. We do not feel as humans that we should rely on machines to think for us, we should think on our own.

If we allow these machines to become universally accepted, they will take over every aspect of our lives. Berry has a fear for a good reason. If his theory is precise then all manual work will be limited and we will drift away from the origin of our intellect – reading and writing; the basis of which was pen and paper.