Dear Prof. Berry,

After reading about your immense distrust in personal computers, critics’ responses, and finally your response to the critics, I see no reason for you to discontinue your spousal bond of pen to paper to typewriter. This method, though somewhat obsolete, not only gives you and your wife a unique bonding experience that will last a lifetime, but it also results in the production of new manuscripts and a job well done.

       First off, I for one support your dislike and degradation of technological advancements and personal computers in a world where people are sheep who merely follow their fellow sheep. Where most writers would hop on the bandwagon and buy a personal computer, you dared to question the way writing should truly be done and the repercussions of the choices of personal technological preferences. As you said in your essay,“ A number of people, by now, have told me that I could greatly improve things by buying a computer. My answer is that I’m not going to do it. I have several reasons and they are good ones.” You also maintained this perspective even when people tried to convince you otherwise.

In addition to this, you also reject innovations in technology due to the fact that they do not help, but hinder the way we perform the simplest of tasks, and I honestly could not agree more. There are things that a computer just cannot do. Take editing for example. Computers do not know your frequent mistakes made or if bits of personal information are even words or not. In the essay, this is depicted by this statement. "She[his wife] is my best critic because she is the one most familiar with my habitual errors and weaknesses. She also understands, sometimes better than I do, what ought to be said.” I, for one, can relate to you, Prof. Berry, because I too have had a communication problem with my computer. I type in the name of my school, but the computer does not know that I attend that certain school, so it “auto-corrects” the name of my school to a different word. Unlike you, the thing (whether it be a spouse, computer, or word processor) that I was feeding words to had no clue who I was or what school I attended. However, if I were to get my friend to edit the same manuscript, then he or she would automatically understand that I was talking about my school. This is one simple example of how technology can cause harm to the writer or reader.

In conclusion, Professor Barry, I support your views on the lack of a need for the “next best thing”, and do find sense in your hatred of innovative technology as I have had lackluster experiences with new technology. I guess Alvin Toffler was correct in saying, “Our technological powers increase, but the side effects and potential hazards also escalate.”