Dante’s *Inferno* was not created on a typewriter and neither was Shakespeare’s *Hamlet.* They were written with a quill. Whether or not they’re being read from the original manuscripts or on an iPad mini, the magnificence of the work itself does not change. The use of a computer would not have made Charles Dickens’s or Mark Twain’s work magically better. It would have merely changed the look of the printed format.

Computers are a tool for the editor far more than for the writer. The computer does neither help nor hinder the creative process that develops the story or essay. The development and the message of the story remain unchanged by the presence or lack of a computer.

Whether Berry chooses to write his work on a computer or not is irrelevant. Or rather, it should be irrelevant to the reader. It is a matter of preference and convenience to the writer that the reader should respect. Berry’s essay is just a statement of his beliefs. It is the same as if he wrote an essay on why his favorite color is green.

Wendell Berry’s essay *Why I’m Not Going To Buy A Computer* asks the reader to consider more than his statement that he won’t buy a computer, but also consider *why* he won’t buy the computer, and to think about farther reaching consequences of what that computer can do. Berry addresses the social effects that computers have. He stated that computers “Should not replace or disrupt anything good that already exists and that includes the family and community relationships.” Berry would be disappointed to see how much computer technology has disrupted, if not replaced, our relationships with the people around us. Instead of talking to someone face to face, or even calling them on the phone, generations since the personal computer are more likely to email, text, or Facetime the person they wish to contact.

Computers, like everything else in this world, have their pros and cons. What one person thinks is a reasonable trade off might be a deal breaker for someone else. For Berry, the cons of computers just have too much weight.

Berry’s decision not to buy a computer is neither right nor wrong. It’s not that kind of issue. It is a matter of preference and practicality, as well as opinion. For Berry, his preference is to do his work by hand. Authors of the past worked the same way, but no one would dare tell Shakespeare that his work would have been better if it had been written on a computer.