**The Case for Technology**

We encounter technology every day: in our homes, our workplaces, and everywhere we go. Despite all of technology’s obvious benefits, some think using this technology has more harmful effects than positive ones. One such person is Wendell Berry. He believes modern technology is unnecessary, harms the environment, and breaks the human connection. However, technology is truly beneficial because it can actually protect the environment, and allows individuals to spend more time on disciplines they wish to pursue.

One of Wendell’s key arguments in asserting modern technology is inferior to his traditional methods is that technology harms the environment. However, this isn’t the case, as technology can actually help conserve the environment. For example, Nathaniel S. Borenstein uses his computer to keep himself up-to-date on the workings of the EPA, and to discuss strategies for conservation with other activists, activities that promote environmental growth. Wendell also describes how the technology market has a “direct dependence on strip-mining,” a harmful practice that pollutes the Earth. While it is true computers and devices do relate to strip-mining, we should try to work with energy companies to reduce the harm done to the Earth, instead of just shunning technology all together. Furthermore, although there are certain natural resources overused when making computers, the use of technology can help conserve resources by decreasing the amount of paper used. By making everything digital, there is less of a need for paper and thus we don’t need to cut down nearly as many trees. While Berry does have a legitimate claim of helping the environment, ultimately technology does not hinder the Earth more than it helps.

Lastly, technology greatly assists people to pursue their own careers or hobbies which they otherwise would be blind to. For example, Wendell Berry’s wife spends much of her time proofreading, critiquing, and typing Berry’s novels and novellas. If Berry bought a computer, he could do all of this on his own (and greatly reduce the time it takes), leaving his wife to free to pursue her own desires. And, while Berry says that his wife does the work “because she likes to and wants to,” there are almost certainly many others who would benefit and appreciate the newfound time they would have for themselves. Bradley C. Johnson agrees with this, believing we should “let the PCs come and the wife and servants go seek more meaningful work.” An acceptance of computers lead to others being able to use their time for more wholesome and fulfilling pursuits.

In conclusion, technology can greatly increase the speed at which we work, assist people in protecting the environment, and let one pursue their own fulfilling hobbies or goals. Berry’s view that technology is unnecessary and hurts the environment of various communities does not have grounds. We should accept and encourage the use of technology, in order to improve all of our lives, not keep to our old, (often harmful) traditions.