A Berry with Tons of Thorns

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Wendell Berry argues the point that writing with a computer is “implicated in the rape of nature”. Berry states that he would rather write when there is only sunlight through the windows. He is excessive and disturbed in parts of how he thinks the “old-fashioned” way is better.

In his essay, “Why I am NOT Going to Buy a Computer”, he lists standards for his own technological innovation. His first statement says; the new tool should be cheaper than the one it replaces.

In the first statement he wants the prices for a computer to go down as they go up in quality and performance. Not only are the resources to make a computer being taken from the earth itself, nor do we have to consider the cost of how to make it, the cost of transportation, but also the cost to gain profit from selling it. Selling items for less the cost could spread around the world as companies compete to have the lowest prices causing a depression in the economy of places around the world as workers are underpaid. The prices to buy or repair older models could also be raised so you could charge a steady price. His analysis of how it could benefit the environment could work as people might be more inclined to use less computers, but it is extremely flawed.

Wendell tends to see possible solutions as problems instead. His reasoning is flawed in the point of not every problem can be fixed, for every reaction there is an opposite and equal reaction. No matter how many problems are fixed, more can and will arise and someone will be upset. As humans, nothing can be made perfect, more than likely, something will go wrong.

His last standard is that it should not replace or disrupt anything good that already exists, and this includes family and community relationships. He seems to claim that technology would bring your relationships with those around you to become more distant and isolated. This argument could be flawed if your closest family member is in another town and if your friends are not living with you. People could definitely isolate themselves through their own free will, or instead of using technology to send instant messages, they could send letters. The only drawbacks to sending a letter is it will take from one day to months to get to the place of destination.

The developing technological world we call the present finds an easier way to do everything; chores, cooking, communication, etc. the world will always continue to advance through technology- some good, some bad- but there is always forward movement. Berry realizes that the technological methods could even take over his farm one day. And who knows, he might change his mind.