Berry: A Proven Point

In Wendell Berry’s essay, he gave his opinion on modern day monopolies and his views on today’s technological advances. His evaluations in this essay were contradictory to most people, who appreciate the advances we receive from technology. In his essay, he listed requirements for his personal satisfaction in a new product in order to replace the older models. Coincidentally, two teachers at our school apply Berry’s values every day in their classroom. These teachers incorporate the less modern ways that are now seen as outdated. They use these methods, such as the use of typewriters, pencil, paper, and handwritten assignments because they believe that they are efficient enough for their purposes in teaching.

Berry is denying the use of modern technology for nine main reasons, which he clearly states in his essay. One of these reasons greatly shows his love for the earth when he says that he detests the coal mining that destroys mountains to create the electricity for new appliances. The new appliance should be comparably cheaper than the old model. He believes this because new models should always be more eco-friendly and economical than older models. Berry makes another point when he states that the new model should perform better, and his argument was valid when the first computers came out. The computers then were used to play games and type. After reading this essay, you can conclude that Berry prefers his method over the electrical option. He also believes in convenience, and that the product should be capable of being easily repaired close to home. He elaborates most on reason number eight which states that the product should come from a privately owned shop and shouldn’t benefit a large retailer or monopoly. His last reason, and the reason that can appeal to anyone, is that no product should ever interfere with a family unit.

Two teachers employed at our school who use these same methods refuse to use computers, and also agree with all of Berry’s principles. Both of these teachers are highly reputable throughout the community and are well respected for their virtues and experience in teaching. The older of the two handwrites every test that the students must take, and on occasion she may use a book from the 1970’s or the 1980’s. Nonetheless, she is one of the two best teachers on campus. Everyone who graduates from her class is adequately prepared for college. There have even been stories of people falling asleep in the college history classes because they knew what the professors were going to teach every day, and they had already learned it in high school. The other teacher uses a typewriter for all his tests and it is believed that it, too, is a Royal typewriter. He also teaches his classes like college courses and adequately prepares his students so that college is easy for them when they arrive in the English classroom. Both teachers effectively prepare their students for their ACTs and their End-Of-Course tests, which they have scores well above average. Neither of the two teachers have ever met Mr. Berry, but they all share common virtues.

Mr. Berry provides a rather valid argument in his essay against modern technology and how they rip people off every day. In his essay, he strongly supports his opinions to fortify and back his accusations. Many people, like our two teachers, still find these methods efficient for their purposes and they utilize them every day. As a team, we agree with Mr. Berry and find his argument against the “boomers” valid.