The Computer Counterargument Claim

Author Wendell Berry made some respectable points about computers, but most of his accusations were unrealistic and pessimistic. Berry also claims that “computers cannot bring people nearer to peace, economic justice, political honesty, and family and community stability, or good work.” Only people using the computers can make these changes. Everyone has a different definition of peace, justice, stability, and good work; therefore, a simple device such as a computer can’t fix these complicated ethical problems. However, Berry also failed to see the positive side of using computers and focused mainly on the negatives of technology.

Wendell Berry claimed nothing but accusatory analysis on computers instead of actually considering a positive side to the new revolutionary technology. E-mailing and posting messages to a message board allows organizations to communicate ideas and business strategies to one another. Therefore, organizations that benefit the environment through fundraising and grass-roots efforts can also use this information to help the environment and the world. His suggestions may be helpful, but there are several other ways to protect the environment while still allowing technological progress. For example, computers compile and analyze data that can be shared globally on multiple platforms and languages. Also, instruments are available to measure environmental conditions to help regulate agricultural and industrial practices.

Wendell Berry is missing the point that computers are essential for progress. Berry strongly believes that there is nothing wrong with his way of work, which many people respect, but if everyone in the United States used the archaic methods of work instead of the technologically advanced practices, the United States would fall behind in the race to be the strongest and most developed nation in the world. We must constantly compete for power to maintain a strong economy.

In addition to Berry’s narrow-minded thinking on technological advancements and the benefits it gives to society, he also displays very unrealistic standards. Wendell’s requirements are nearly impossible to fulfill with technology. Firstly, Wendell wants something that is solar-powered, to help with environmental and economic issues, but he also requires that they are affordable. Additionally, solar panels are expensive to repair and cannot easily be repaired by anyone with the necessary tools, which is another standard that Berry mentions in his personal opinion on technology. Perhaps in the future there will be a more modernized and affordable inventory of solar-powered panels- but until then, Mr. Berry will not be satisfied.