Wendell Berry envisions a world where you are being rushed to a hospital on the edge of death because of an infectious disease only to discover that when you get there, you would be greeted by a menacing jar of leeches. Today, we have developed and innovated our technology to compliment our growing society. Wendell Berry, an American novelist, opposes this idea of advancement in technology and has developed nine rules that espouse his philosophy. According to these nine rules, breakthroughs such as penicillin should not be in existence, we should not have combustion engines, and people should not be purchasing computers.

The profound arrogance shown by Berry is astonishing. How can a religious man, so concerned with the happiness of people, care so little about their advancement? One of Berry’s main reasons for not owning a computer is his lack of personal understanding of the subject. Berry believes that his wife would no longer be able to proofread his papers for him and that it would take longer to push out content. Berry seems to refuse to acknowledge that if he were to use a computer, he could backspace and undo his typos instead of having to use white-out, thus leading to faster edits and more time which he could spend with his loving wife to deepen their relationship. After all, time spent with his wife outside of a work environment would likely make their love deeper than more time spent editing papers. The absurdity of Berry’s nine rules is obvious when applied to modern society. Based on Berry’s rules, a car would be inferior to a chariot, since it costs more and uses more energy than the model before it. Berry also refuses to acknowledge that people have always had to pay more for better merchandise. This fact is not only simple economics, but it is also just common sense. We are growing up in a world that is using more energy, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Our modern machines are stronger and more cost efficient. The very logic behind Berry’s rules needs to be questioned. Wendell Berry’s stubborness is keeping him from an advancement that could save him time and money in the long run.

So what option would you prefer, a hole drilled in your skull to relieve a simple headache, or two pills of Ibuprofen? The first option had a survival rate as low as 50%. Ibuprofen kills virtually no one. It is evident that Berry’s thought process about progress is flawed, so why should this be applied to computers? Wendell Berry would argue that society is incapable of bettering itself through advancement and innovation that is not directly tied to nature. Even though computers are machines designed to make life easier, not harder. Fighting progress simply for the purpose of maintaining some arbitrary tradition is like forcing people to live in a world without penicillin.