Mr. Berry,

In your essay, you state nine different requirements that must be fulfilled in order for you to purchase a computer, all of which are persuasive and rooted in reason. You stipulate that the computer “should do work that is clearly and demonstrably better than the one it replaces,” then proceed to state that you can do everything that a computer can do with your pen, paper, typewriter, and editor, thereby eliminating the necessity of a computer. Although a computer might allow for greater ease in writing papers, it removes the direct connection between pen and paper and the writer. Computers do not provide any additional reason for a writer to buy one, given that one can do the same thing on a piece of paper for less money and more freedom. Additionally, you demand that the computer “should be cheaper than the [tools] it replaces.” The cost of a computer is certainly prohibitive for the average person, as a computer could cost several hundred dollars. In the latter portion of the 1980s, a few hundred dollars is a substantial sum of money. This limits the access of the computer to the reader of your papers which may hinder their interest in a paper written on a computer. You explain that “[computers] should be at least as small in scale as the [machine] it replaces.” Because of their bulky construction, computers do not meet this criteria. When using a notepad and paper, you can work anywhere without almost any limitation. Computers must be kept in one room due to their need of a constant connection to electricity, and computers are too heavy to be easily moved to another location. When browsing the available computers of our day while simultaneously considering your requirements, one will inevitably realise that a computer cannot meet your expectations, as it directly contradicts your stipulated criteria.

In the current year, 2018, computers have led to the access and distribution of personal information through hacking, which devastated tens of millions of people and businesses, and it led to information being completely impossible to protect perfectly. Also recently, the electric car company, Tesla, has created a driverless car program that caused a fatal crash. If technology would not have progressed to the point of that, the crash could have theoretically been prevented. You state that the new technology shall not destroy existing family bonds. The upcoming of social media has allowed ideas to be spread across the world, which would be a good thing at face value, yet it has separated friends and family by eliminating the need to physically communicate, but to just send an electronic messages. This goes against your requirement completely. Social media has also allowed for different radical groups to recruit people to serve essentially as domestic terrorists. The invention of the atomic bomb and other missiles have also aided the destruction of entire populations. Although technology has the potential to be harmless, when misused, technology can be detrimental to society, safety, and social connections.