With the refusal of more appropriate and up to date technologies comes the responsibility and unavoidable consequence of falling behind not only in domestic and otherwise ordinary uses, but in an overall mindset as well. Wendell Berry’s stance on his lack of use of a regular computer, though rooted in a strong basis of tradition, will eventually cause significant issues in the future. The world and society in general will progress and update whether or not Berry decides to update with it. Difficulty in formerly simple actions may arise due to his lack of aiding hardware and software.

His requirements for the types of technological innovations that he would replace his typewriter with are not only decades away from achieving, but they are also rather impractical. Berry discussed his desire for new devices to be smaller than its predecessor, but also an improvement as far as performance. A smaller device that performs a wider variety of commands and more efficiently is hardly realistic. Additionally, if Berry wants a device that is an improvement of a past model, it will require more advanced and expensive materials to help it run more effectively. Furthermore, his concern about personal computers creating a rift between him and his wife because of her decision to aid in his editing should not be too much of a concern. If he is afraid of becoming reliant on proofreading software which may not perform as well, then he can use both interchangeably to avoid reliance on both. Where human error may bypass both she and Berry, a computer software program may be able to detect the issues and aid in correcting them. Likewise, a computer malfunction could be caught by observational human eye and corrected. It may also be beneficial to give his wife a break every once in a while from scanning over and editing paper after paper for him. By taking a realistic outlook of the future of technology and how he can incorporate both it and the ways of life that he is familiar with, Berry can realize that his views on how technological innovations of the future can positively impact life are generally flawed.

Small personal views that Berry holds could be the building blocks for much vaster and severe opinions. If he maintained his opinion of more expensive or bulky technologies never proving to be of any help, then he will likely be left behind as society and the economy adjusts to the technological changes. These views, on a more magnified scale, resemble those that keep society from beneficial reform and change. Though tradition may have been repeated continuously, that does not directly imply that it is the proper way to proceed. Refusal to change even minor technology may lead to problematic opinions in the future.

The stand against purchasing a computer for his home that Berry holds is not only redundant with how quickly the world is advancing technologically, it could potentially worsen to an overall hostile viewpoint of reformation in a tech-based society as a whole. The first step of recognizing that technology exists to help in the advancement of the human race is to open one’s mind to all opportunities that technology may provide.