Essay 1

Wendell Berry’s refusal to consent to the purchasing of computers, although well supported, cannot be applicable to others, as the statement is a personal opinion. Though a man is entitled to his own personal views, Berry’s article is somewhat irrelevant, as the spread of computers that results from their convenient features is inevitable. In regard to our personal experiences, technology has many benefits, such as more access to educational resources and a global awareness through instant email and news updates. However, as Berry states, the use of technology also has many disadvantages. Some drawbacks being a general growing impatience caused by the instant gratification of computers and occasionally social isolation due to the introverted qualities the overuse technology elicits. This specifically does not meet one of Berry’s criteria for suitable technology: “It should not replace or disrupt anything good that already exists, and this includes family and community relationships.”

We find that Berry’s analysis is sound, albeit somewhat clouded by a sentimental attachment with his wife which he does not wish to dissolve. Regarding to Berry’s criteria for technology, as mentioned above, we have not been able to conclude that any such technology exists. We are certain that if Mr. Berry should respond to this, he would say that his opinion will never be irrelevant, as long as he is able to voice his thoughts freely, in contrast with simpletons like us who are brainwashed by the media and large companies. To reply to Mr. Berry, we would like to say that our beliefs about the convenience of technology were not forced upon us by the institutions he detests, but rather we have experienced the usefulness of technology first-hand.