Imagine if someone proposed to Shakespeare that the art of writing with quill and ink was preposterous, and that a computer could generate a better sonnet than his own creative mind? In Wendell Berry’s essay “Why I am Not Going to Buy a Computer,” a similar bold assertion was made to him: his writing could be greatly improved if only he bought a new computer. Berry is correct in resenting the assertion that he or anyone else could write better with a personal computer since the computer is merely an instrument of ease, but he erroneously denies that there are benefits and assigns a hefty catalog of requirements that technological innovation must satisfy.

Computers were intended to be a tool; therefore, it can be no substitute for the creativity of the human mind. Shakespeare, who is claimed to be one of the best writers of all time, wrote literature that we are still reading 400 hundred years later without the use of a personal computer. He is correct in his notion that quality writing is not a directly attributable to the use of the computer, but he makes other incorrect statements.

Berry has unfairly brushed-off all possible benefits that the computer has to offer. Tools are made to make particular tasks easier. A computer is far more superior to a type typewriter. For example, a typewriter is more time-consuming than a computer mostly because the task of typing is very harsh on the fingers given the. Moreover, a computer can efficiently erase what is needed after the paper is done with a word processor, rather than having to re-do the whole paper after the ink sets on a typewriter. Global peace is something that Berry mentioned the computer cannot influence. World peace, on a small scale, can be influenced by the computer by communicating our ideas and networking with other nations. He also said that it would not help with family and community stability; however, families overseas have the incredible opportunity to communicate in real time via e-mail. This would be impossible without the computer.

The list of standards that Berry has constructed would be optimal, but a Sisyphean task. It is impossible, and even unnecessary, to meet his standards. A new device with up-to-date hardware would be much more expensive than the old. For example, new hardware would be harder to engineer and more materials would have to be used thus causing the price to increase.

In conclusion, opinions about this issue can vary depending on beliefs. Berry correctly says that computers cannot make one write better, but leaves out the fact that it can be an invaluable tool for writing efficiency. He denies almost all the benefits of a computer, and makes a list of impossible specifications to please. Hopefully, in the future, he will loosen his grip on the past.