“Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer” was written by Wendell Berry, a writer and a farmer who lives in Port Royal, Kentucky. Although Berry attempts to support his reasoning, it is biased making his logic hard to relate to. He is against buying a computer, stating that it is, “not needed for his line of work.” Ironically, the average intelligence desired by Berry can leads only to the opposite point of view for technology.

In the article, Berry gives a list of “standards for technological innovation in my own work.” Berry states, “I would hate to think that my work as a writer could not be done without a direct dependence on strip-minded coal.” This is referring to the materials used to make and operate the computers. That is a true statement; however writing without a computer takes up paper and also uses pencils which are made by a process known as deforestation, is just as bad, if not worse than mining coal. Why does Mr. Berry prefer one method of environmental damage over another?

Berry continues with “I have seen their advertisements, attempting to seduce struggling or failing farmers into the belief that they can solve their problems by buying yet another piece of expensive equipment.” Many of his reasons for not wanting a computer are based off of the way he lives. Berry has never tried the product, and his dislike indicates he would greatly avoid it; therefore he cannot know the full efficiency of it. It would be more accurate if he had evidence of owning and testing the products. His argument, in this case, is inaccurate.

One of the most striking aspects of Berry’s argument is the amount of money it costs to buy a computer. Berry asks, “What would a computer cost me? More money, for one thing, than I can afford, and more than I wish to pay to people whom I do not admire.” In 1957, a new IBM typewriter cost $420, which in today’s money equals $3,50.55. His money saving device would be enough to buy five of the most high in demand tablets in stores, Apple’s iPad, and have money left over! He also takes about having to replace the “old model” of the equipment which then takes up even more money.

Berry made a list of his standards for technological innovation. The rules state that in order for him to buy the product it has to be smaller and cheaper than the previous product. In some ways that could be true for the products. As in the case of the computer, it uses less space, even though it uses energy from coal, it doesn’t require as much time, space, and upkeep as a typewriter. Obviously, Mr. Berry needs to get out of the sun and think about things more closely.