In his essay, Wendell Berry is explaining his reasoning for refusing to own a computer, but his arguments are based on flawed reasoning. To support his argument, Berry states that using a pencil, paper, and typewriter saves money, saves energy, and works much better than any computer could. I completely disagree with his outrageous theory that computers are valueless. Computers actually have many practical uses; not only can they make writing easier, they can connect you with the world beyond your four walls and improve the way you complete everyday tasks. Using a computer saves money, energy, and offers much more than any other device known to man.

Berry argues that computers are expensive, when in fact the new typewriter he purchased was equivalent to the cost of today’s average laptop. Although typewriters last longer than computers, the maintenance costs, buying paper and ink, makes them the more expensive option over a long period of time. Typewriters do not have the lovely backspace key that computers have, so if you make a mistake, it is unable to be corrected. You would be forced to start over with more paper and more ink, therefore spending more money. Computers on the other hand, make it very easy to correct accidental errors. You do not have to buy as much paper and use ink only if you need to print, subsequently money is saved in the long run.

Berry also argues that computers harm the environment because of unnecessary energy consumption. He has an ambiguous argument, because a computer is probably more energy efficient than a room with incandescent lights. It does not categorically benefit the environment if one person does not own a computer.

Berry only focuses on and argues about a computer’s ability to be a writing tool. He does not argue other possible uses for computers, such as the amount of resources and information that can be accessed instantly. For instance, it supplies you with news instantly. Berry could argue that a newspaper works just as well, but once again it is just a waste of paper and ink. Due to transportation and oil shortages, newspapers are not available to everyone.

Berry lacks insight and vision. He cannot see what computers have to offer. Berry says, “I do not see that computers are bringing us one step nearer to anything that does matter to me: peace, economic justice…..family and community stability, good work.” Yet, computers are created to help people progress; they improve life and make it easier. For example, computers allow people in separate countries to communicate through (video) chat. This is just one way computers can make life easier, but they will constantly be advancing and improving.

Berry lives a simple life as a farmer, writer, and without a computer. He cannot see the possibilities available with a computer. Computers can save money and energy, while making tasks much simpler. If Berry would open his eyes, he could see how amazing a computer truly is.