A tool is a device that gives aid to the user, and I view a computer as a tool. Wendell Berry’s work, “Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer*”* is an essay about the reasons he refuses to buy a computer. I find Berry’s comments to be illogical because he does not own a computer or use a computer. His comments suggest that “I and others are somehow impure because we choose to write on a computer.” In contrast, a few of his comments make me rethink the uses of technology. Although I do not agree with Berry’s accusations and assumptions, some of his points are valid and worthy of examination.

While analyzing this area of technology, I notice how sometimes more harm than good can come from technology. An example of that from personal experience is when a general text such as “Oh wow” is received. I have to guess the tone the sender is trying to imply. If I perceive the message incorrectly, then the message as a whole is different. When the message received changes, the dynamic of the conversation changes. Another example is since people use a computer or a cell phone, they do not hand write as much. Because of a lack of written communication, valuable personal memories (and therefore much personal human history) could be lost.

Although there are vulnerabilities associated with technology, Berry’s work about technology is saturated with flaws and biased comments. Berry is wrong when he implies that computers replace humans. Computers can bring humans together by allowing people to see family and friends that live miles away. Another major flaw with Berry’s work is that it is biased. How would Berry know computers are inadequate if he does not own or even use a computer? The answer is he does not. He asserts “facts” based on his own personal opinions. Berry mentions that he does not admire energy industries, but what he does not realize is that he uses these industries when he uses pencil and paper. Therefore, the process for making his tools uses as much energy as a computer. Another flawed statement is that computers cannot make a better writer. The use of computers can assist the writer in becoming more knowledgeable, because computers can provide writers access to the information that they did not know before.

In Berry’s work, he lists his standard for technological innovation. A device that meets his standards is the Solar Powered Global Positioning System (GPS). This is a tool that does not need to be replaced. All users need is an update on the maps every few years. This device surpasses all printed maps because if the user gets lost it automatically reroutes them to the most logical path. If there is ever a problem, this device could easily be reprogrammed from a home computer. It could never replace anyone because it goes inside the car. In conclusion, the flaws found in his argument are more prominent than the points that Berry tries to make.