Wendell Berry will not buy a computer soon, and he is completely justified! Wendell Berry, now pursuing writing while running a subsistence farm, loathes the idea of utilizing a computer to write due to negative environmental consequences, exorbitant cost to financial and relationship status, as well as it will not make him a better writer. He is right! Technological innovations are harmful to environmental, relational, and economic conditions.

Technological innovations harm the environment. Not-easily-renewable resources are harvested to make the electricity needed to power tech. Irreplaceable metals, coal, and natural gas are stolen from the Earth to power plants. A nonrenewable resource is unable to be regenerated; a perfect example is the destruction of mountaintops when strip-mining for coal. The land used for growing trees is being taken up by landfills that contain outdated technology and other materials that are harmful to the environment. When the newest model of technology comes out, everyone wants it. In order to make room for a new item, the previous piece, majorly non-biodegradable, ends up in a landfill Those dangerous materials built into the computer have the potential to damage the surrounding environment, poisoning the Earth for thousands of years to come.

Just as damaging, innovation can have a negative impact on relationships. The editing the computer performs eliminates peer review. Another human will contribute invaluable comments of the expression of the idea, whereas a computer is unable. If Wendell used a computer to revise his work, the bond between him and his wife, created by their critiquing process, would be weakened. The use of technology leads to a decrease in overall interpersonal communication. There are only twenty-four hours in a day. As technology advances, more of those are spent in front of a screen as opposed to face-to-face interaction. Personally, I have gotten in trouble plenty of times for not cleaning my room because I have lost track of time while on the computer.

As a consumer, the innovation of technology takes a monetary toll on your wallet. In 1990, computers are not affordable to individuals. Like a car, technology births newer models. The “gas” necessary to fuel tech is what can run up someone’s electric bill. If the tech is damaged, the repairs will cost. As Wendell mentioned, tech should be repairable by a person of ordinary intelligence. Now, needed repairs cannot be fixed by even above ordinary intelligence. The accessories necessary to function also cost the consumer, for example speakers. Taking all this into consideration, owning a piece of technology is indubitably expensive.

Computing improvements are destructive to the environment of the planet, interpersonal relationships, and personal economy. The environment is greatly harmed by the innovations of technology. The updates to existing technology not only destroy our ecosystem, but also our friendships. As a consumer of technology, the renovation of products takes a monumental sum of your paycheck. Although new products may seem eco-friendly, they are more destructive than anything that can be done with a pen and paper.