As a student, I honestly cannot remember the last time I wrote an essay with just pen and paper. Once faced with such an undertaking task, I immediately turn to the one obsession that puts me at ease—a computer. After reading Berry’s article, I question that obsession. His essay brings to the forefront how society is starting to rely on what technology can achieve, instead of looking to see what the human mind can accomplish for them. Berry states that technology is a hindrance to the writer and the computer is not the solution to every problem.

Writing an essay has transformed from composing six or seven drafts, to typing out on a keyboard whatever pops out, thus omitting the crucial stage of editing altogether. Berry infers that the majority of writing takes place in your mind long before it is transferred to a medium. His preferred medium is pen and paper and he feels that it works best for him. Research currently gives credence to that premise. According to research from Indiana University, when you’re only given a pen and paper to use, brain neural activity is far more enhanced. Take away the pen and paper, and you terminate this ability. So why do most people choose a computer over pen and paper? In the long run, they are compromising the quality of the essay for the speed of completion. Without knowing it, holding a pen and paper gives the writer a more direct and concrete connection between their thoughts and the finished product.

Computer users can type their thoughts but are faced with bigger obstacles such as distractions from Facebook, IM, or YouTube videos—thus hindering their thought process and focus. According to the Journal of Communication, “Researchers found that people were more likely to multitask if they needed to work, study, or complete a habitual task.” They also found that “[multitasking wasn't actually effective](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1460-2466.2012.01641.x/abstract) in terms of fulfilling those needs.”

Technology takes away our ability to focus, and makes us assume we can multitask when we can’t. We are repeatedly relinquishing our critical thinking to the computer assuming it will find mistakes and correct them. We continuously repeat similar errors and presume it will correct them thus sacrificing the learning process. The current trend is leaning toward not depending on ourselves but relying heavily on technology. More disturbingly, we are becoming so reliant on technology that life becomes unbearable without it.

I have great respect for Berry because he isn’t a stereotypical writer of the 20th century. In his article, Berry states, “I have seen their advertisements attempting to seduce struggling farmers into the belief that they can solve their problems by buying yet another piece of expensive equipment.” Aren’t we all farmers in that sense? To counter this argument, I believe solar power is a wise investment.

Do these technology companies actually have our best interest in mind? The more important question is does this technology really solve our problems, or create bigger ones?