In 1990, Wendell Berry wrote “I am NOT going to buy a computer,” in response to the suggestion by his friends to acquire one to enhance the process of his writing endeavors. He was very loyal to his belief that the use of a computer would have a far more negative impact on his life than a positive one. A wise man once said, “*Some changes look negative on the surface, but what you will soon realize is that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge.”* Berry had many reasons that he felt were valid to support his beliefs. We believe that the most significant reason for his belief was fear. We feel he feared change the most as well as losing control; therefore, he justified his thinking and resistance to technological innovation and simply refused to see the potential benefits it could offer.

We can empathize to some degree with Berry’s perspective. He was in fact very content with his life as he lived it. The old adage, “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” certainly aligns with his rationalizations. First of all, He was very satisfied utilizing his wife as his personal computer and editor. He was protective of that relationship and wanted it to stay the same. Secondly, he was confident that the quality of his writing was not affected by using a pen and paper to produce it versus a computer. He did not want to become dependent upon a computer or the society that supported it. Lastly, Berry had created standards that in his mind had to be met before he embraced any such technological innovations. The personal computer did not measure up to these standards.

There is some validity that the advancement of technology can bring about harmful effects. We see numerous accidents and deaths related to texted and driving. Family time is constantly interrupted due to instant communication in the form of texting and instant messaging. Children are preyed upon and often lured into situations by predators that lead to significant harm and sometimes death. Suicides are on the rise due to cyber bullying and cheating is at an all time high due in large part to the use of cell phones in the classroom. Still with all those realities, we believe, unlike Berry, that the positive benefits of the use of a computer far outweigh the negative ones. It was once said, ““*Any* *change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts.”* We believe that in order for growth to occur our desire for change must be greater than the fear of that change.

Wendell Berry was an excellent candidate to receive the benefits of change by using a personal computer. Perhaps his relationship with his wife would have been enhanced by it allowing her to spend more time with her husband rather that pecking away at a 1956 typewriter. Additionally, maybe the ease of word processing Berry’s mind would have been freer to explore the content he produced. And finally if he adjusted his standards to embrace change as opposed to fearing it, it would have simplified his life allowing him time to embrace what was most important to him in life.