Writing Assignment # 1

6-25-14

With regards to Berry’s assumptions on the faults and imperfections of innovation through technology, I believe that human dependency upon technology can be both a solution and problem, after considering the pros and the cons. Humans now use technology as a way to make communication more effective through telecommunications and wireless interactions, and one result brought upon by this simplicity is an increase of indolence within the community and, essentially, a decrease in the amount of genuine, face-to-face communication. As Berry mentions, this can isolate humans from their loved ones and society, but most importantly, this causes people to lower their standards in the methods they use to accomplish their tasks. However, one must take into consideration that spending less time dwelling upon the convenience of the task will allow for spending more time on the actual completion of the task. In addition, by redirecting the focus of performing tasks, more thought can be put into the actual innovation of the subject. This main idea has been demonstrated time and time again, especially during the social and technological development that was seen as Europe rose out of its Dark Ages. The Dark Ages progressed to an end with the emergence of the Renaissance — the European period of boundless developments in art, science, philosophy, and technology — and this brought a time of prosperity along with it, ultimately showing that technological advancement is imperative in the improvement of human lifestyle and evolution. Without even the simplest forms of innovation, ranging from the development of language to the utilization of weaponry, we would still be in a primitive and barbarian mindset. In this sense, Berry is at fault by viewing the situation with ignorance, shown primarily by the fact that he isn’t realizing that innovation is the sole reason that he is even able to write with his typewriter.

Berry states several conditions under which he can deem innovation beneficial, but he has not taken into account many other aspects of the situation. One of the main reasons for his erroneous judgment is the fact that he cannot see the condition of people in the future, in which technological advancements could be increasing exponentially. For this coming time period, technology is extremely likely to become significantly cheaper and smaller, as well as more effective, energy-efficient, and easy to fix. Humans also show signs of beginning to delve into the realm of renewable energy to replace fossil fuels as the main source of energy, and with reference to Point #5’s mention of solar energy being a viable alternative, it will be impossible to make advancements in this field without incessant utilization of technology. If anything, humans will eventually reach a point at which their energy resources will deplete, and this will most definitely drive them to even more technological innovation to solve the problem due to the fact that this will become the only possible solution. While his arguments in terms of environmental and economic problems — especially in terms of the aspects of social deterioration — are valid, Berry should not undermine the extreme productivity and beneficial automaticity that comes with innovations of technology.