Why We Agree

Dear Mr. Berry:

With all of today’s technological advances, it is difficult to believe that someone refuses to be sucked into the vacuum of advancing technology. I must admit that before I read your article in its entirety, I had the urge to be derisive of anyone who would resist the obvious efficiency of computers. After perusing your argument, however, I admit that I concur with your reasoning. After all, I have seen that computers have reduced interpersonal communication and have used excessive amounts of energy.

Although people communicate verbally and through written correspondence, they are becoming increasingly dependent upon computers to do the work that humans were responsible for before the advances in technology. For instance, humans once wrote everything with a pencil and paper. The writing process also consisted of showing the writers’ work to others for critique and discussion. I believe that the use of computers has taken away a bit of the human element since we now have autocorrect. Therefore, your standard that states that technological innovation “…should not disrupt anything good that already exists, and that includes family and community relationships” further supports the importance of interpersonal communication. In fact, having your wife edit and type your material seems to be something special that you and she share, something that strengthens your connection. The use of a computer would take away that human element and weaken the special bond.

Not only do computers disrupt the “good that already exists,” but they also use excessive amounts of energy. Those of us who are concerned with the environment know that the ever-increasing reliance on natural resources will soon lead to the depletion and possible annihilation of said resources. I agree that we have no urgent need to fix something that is not broken. So long as we can write and employ the use of typewriters, why should we deplete our natural resources simply for the sake of convenience? After all, writing does not cause damage to our environment. Typing uses few elements to be operational. Furthermore, typewriters are easy and inexpensive to repair. Since they last such a long time, they do not have to be replaced often, which also decreases the number of objects placed in landfills. Of course, perhaps the most poignant point that you make for your refusal to own a computer is the fact that, in so doing, you would essentially become a hypocrite. You would be “implicated in the rape’ by depending on strip-mined coal. Have we not all seen that “rape of nature” as the ever-increasing rate of innovations has occurred?

In the end, we must all decide for ourselves what is more important: the past, the present, or the future. From reading your article, I believe that you cherish interpersonal communication and conservation of natural resources. I do not intend to buy a computer, either, Mr. Berry. Let the world make of it what they will, but I intend to stick with my trusty pencils and some sheets of paper.