In Wendell Berry’s paper, “Why I Am Not Going to Buy a Computer”, he makes the claim that he will never buy a computer because he believes that they are not energy efficient. He also believes that buying a computer means that he will have to discard the “old model” that he uses to help him write, which happens to be his wife. Lastly, he says that he “does not wish to fool himself” because he believes that nothing can write better or easier than a pencil and paper. He also has a list of standards for new technologies. I agree with most of his claims, even though I own a computer myself.

His first claim is that computers are not energy efficient. He states, “I would hate to think that my work as a writer could not be done without a direct dependence on strip-mined coal.” Strip mining coal is very harmful to the Earth and if there was another way to write without promoting it, then I would do it to. That way is to just write with a pencil and paper.

I also agree with his list of standards for technology in general. The first point on his list is that the new tool should be cheaper than the one that it replaces. This is a problem in many people lives, because new technologies are always coming out, and when they come out, they are always way more expensive than the one that came before it just because they are “better”. A great example of this is the iPhone. One iPhone will come out and then a few months later, a new one will come out that is way more expensive. Even though one iPhone is more expensive, it doesn’t do anything more or better than the one that came before it. Another point on his list is that the new technology should do work that is clearly better than the one it replaces. Many new technologies that come out don’t really do work better, they are just hype. People will buy them because they have been convinced that the technology they’re buying is better, even though it’s really not.

Another standard that he has is that the technology should be repairable by a person of ordinary intelligence if they have the right tools for the job. I agree with this standard because this is something that many people struggle with. When some of my technology breaks, I cannot just fix it. It really bugs me that I have to call a service or drive a very long way just to get my device fixed. I also agree with his claim that technology should be purchasable and repairable as near to home as possible. It is a major inconvenience to have to drive to a faraway place to get technology.

All of his claims are still relevant to people and technology today. Computers do use a lot of energy and that energy comes from strip mining. The new technology that comes out should do better work than the one it replaces, it also should be repairable by the average person. Overall, I agree with Wendell Berry’s claims.