Why Wendell Berry Should Reconsider

In his essay to *Harper’s Weekly*, Wendell Berry argues against using computers. Some of the reasons Berry gives are: that it interrupts the way people interact with each other; distorts one’s sense of community and family; and that it wastes energy, which could be potentially harmful to the environment. We disagree with Berry’s view points on computers for multiple reasons. Through out the years computer technology has changed such as they increase communications, have become more efficient, and they have evolved to fit Berry’s suggestions for the computers.

While Berry makes strong arguments about how computers are harmful in general, we disagree. Yes, computers can make people zombie-like at times, but you have to think of the good one can do. Firstly, and most likely the most important, is communication. For parents away in Iraq, it is difficult for them to be away from their family, and their family away from them. With a computer and through websites you can access through one, the family is able to see their loved one and know that they are okay. With computers, the family can talk to their loved one at any time. Some even have the leisure to talk to their friends that have moved countries with just a few clicks.

Next, computers do take up energy, that is true, but so do most things in the modern world. Just because one person refuses to buy a computer, it does not mean that everyone else will, too. It is not going to make much of a difference in the environment whether or not one person decides to not buy a computer because of the pollutants it could cause the environment. Computers have become more environmentally friendly. For example, some computers have a more environmentally safer charging. They also have recyclable batteries and hardware. They have a power saving mode so they use less energy.

Lastly, things have changed since the article has been written. Computers are a lot cheaper now than they were then, for one, and they also can be fixed by someone with ordinary intelligence, most of the time. This is the age of technology, and most of us have grown up around it. We know how to troubleshoot a problem with a computer, and we know how to fix it. Finally, computers are getting smaller, and the modern-day computer uses a lot less energy than those when this article was written.