The recent growth of technology in our society is quite evident and some of the negative changes it has made are as obvious today as when Mr. Berry addressed them in his essay. He makes some strong arguments that are not in favor of the advance of technology in its all-consuming form. There are many adverse effects of technology currently in our everyday lives including the strain it puts on our society and environment. Because of these reasons, we are in agreement with Mr. Berry.

When incorporating additional technology into our lives such as social networking, our relationships with other people become more obsolete. Mr. Berry noted this when he discussed his standards for new technologies. He said that they must not disrupt his relationships and more importantly, his relationship with his wife and family. But, the reality is that technology does create barriers; it engulfs people and allows for most, if not all, correspondence to be done online. This can cause people to isolate themselves and lack the vital social skills they would need to conduct a face-to-face meeting.

“If it’s not broke, then don’t fix it.” Berry alluded to this well-known quote when he discussed the great work of Dante, a thirteenth century writer and philosopher who was quite obviously not exposed to the current technology that we have today. Though, his lack of technology didn’t hinder the quality of his work. This same argument can be made still today when discussing the countless new phones, cameras, and other devices that are being produced. With all the advances, we are constantly yearning for the new “stuff”. Though, rarely do we actually need these devices. They might become more efficient, but when we are constantly using them, one might pose the question: do we also become more efficient?

Another significant point that Mr. Berry proposed was the harmful effects that new technology has on our environment. These statements that he has made are not only opinions, but they are facts. The coal-stripping that Mr. Berry mentioned with utter disgust has had an exponential amount of growth since his statements thus posing more and more damage upon our earth. A new practice for gathering coal for power plants, called Mountaintop removal, is referred to as “coal-stripping on steroids”. This process involves bulldozing forests, using explosives to blast off mountain peaks, and disposing of the waste in adjacent valleys which is a major disruption to the geography of those areas. It is the newest and cheapest alternative for energy companies to mass produce the power needed to supply the ever expanding world of electronics.

Mr. Berry made some bold but necessary statements in his essay. He addressed issues that most people are blind to because the major industries that he is against are at the core of the information we are exposed to daily. Mr. Berry was not only expressing his opinion but urging us to define our own too. Therefore, on this topic, we agree with Mr. Berry.