Writing Assignment One

Wendell Berry’s essay has created many questions as to whether or not we should follow in his foot steps. I personally lean both ways as to whether or not I agree or disagree. He makes many valid points on his technological innovation standards. I think his thought processing is one sided though. Berry ignores the advantages of having a computer versus a typewriter.

Hypothetically, your paper copy is due in ten minutes. With a computer you can press one button and your documents and files can be half way across the world in no time to multiple recipients. With Berry’s idea of no computers, your document would never make it in time.

When writing there will be many mistakes with your work. With a typewriter you will have to white it out and it will look sloppy and unprofessional. On the other hand, with the more advanced technology you can backspace and edit without the worry of sloppy looking work. With typing on a computer or laptop you will find that there is a red line under your word or words when you make a grammatical error. Can a typewriter do that? No.

Berry says that the newer technology should be at least as small in scale as the one it replaces. That point is invalid in this day and age. Thirty years ago his point of “smaller is better” was what people wanted. Now everyone wants bigger and better. They make laptops and computers in varying sizes so Berry can have his smaller replacement.

Overall I agree with three of Berry’s technological innovation standards. Your new technology should do work that is undeniably better than the one it replaces. When you buy something new you expect something faster and better. This includes getting something more energy efficient. One of Wendell’s predicaments was that he didn’t want to strip mine to power our computers. If you want an energy efficient computer than you could look for a solar powered battery.

Possibly the greatest challenge is where they put our computers after we discard them. Where do they go? In big holes called landfills. We are polluting our Earth with our ruined computers. That fact has not changed.

    There were many good points made on boths sides of owning a computer. You can side with Wendell Berry and say that you shouldn’t buy a computer because it is a waste of money and energy. Then, there is the disagreeing side where you want a computer. There are advantages to that. You can send your work and documents fast and efficiently. There is the spell check feature also, where you can fix your grammatical errors. Either way you side, there will be opinions and some facts as to whether or not you should own a computer, but in this day and age it’s more logical to own a computer.