Writing Assignment 1

Sergey Brin once stated, “As we go forward, we are going to continue to use technology to make really big differences in how people live and work.” The technological differences mentioned are enabling us to take a step forward. Many of Wendell Berry’s views seem to be unrealistic, such as his view that technology is not needed. Berry also believes that technology does have a negative effect on human civilization. However, what Berry fails to realize is that it’s not necessarily the technology that is detrimental to society; it is the human manipulation of technology.

Manipulation of technology has increased as technological advancements have been made. The primary purpose of technology is to make everyday life more convenient. Therefore, the more technology that is created the easier manipulation becomes. Berry seems to believe that the negative effect is made by the technology but in reality it all comes back on the people taking advantage of what’s put in front of them.

When technology is used responsibly there are numerous benefits. For example most medical issues can be resolved or aided with technology. An MRI serves as one of the most important pieces of medical technology that we have ever had. Without this crucial piece of machinery, diagnosing patients would be nearly impossible. Many Americans are here solely on the reliance of technology used in the medical field.

Berry has specific criteria that he believes should be met in order for technology to be positive; such as low costs, small in scale, works better than the previous device, and can be repaired by the average person. Cell phones, iPads, iPods, and laptops all meet his criteria. Cell phones are a prime example because of their low cost, easy access, supply, and their portability. Laptops can make writing easier because you don’t need a person to spell check and type all of your literary work because you have the ability to do this all at once, making your writing more time efficient. Berry’s wife was used to type all of his work on a typewriter that she had to proofread and correct by herself. Most people do not have the access to a person to do this work making it easier, and this is where the positive influence of technology comes in.

Wendell Berry’s ideas and beliefs are in no way realistic. People have a way of making technology seem negative. It was created with good intentions and to only have positive effects; however humans take advantage of these possibilities. An example of this would be David Lightman taking advantage of technology in the movie *War Games* which almost led to WWIII. However, when technology is not taken advantage of, it has many benefits. As Brin stated, technology can only lead to bigger and better things.