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Language and Literature

How Electricity Has Changed Our Islands

When the islands did not generate electricity, the people living on the islands in the past would have to use the cool breeze rather than today, when we are lucky to have appliances, such as an electric dryer. They used the sun to bleach the clothes rather than the actual chemicals, that we now buy in big bottles, and the residents of the house, or the people they hired, would have to scrub their clothes on a washboard rather than now, when we are able to just throw the clothes into the washing machine, add in some Tide and let it run for an hour or so. If a person wanted to spread the latest news they would have to walk or drive all the way to that person's house to share the news. Today, because of electricity, we have devices called phones that we use to call our friends and family to gossip about whatever it may be.

In the past, having a clean house, clean clothes, and being able to communicate with others was hard labour and was time consuming, but effective in the end. Electricity allows our islands to be safe. With an unsafe society, the islands would not attract tourists or investors that currently visit and reside here today. Without the tourists and residents that vacation here and live here our financial investments and economies would not exist, so the Cayman Islands, as a result, would not be a competitor in the tourist and financial industries. However, there are more efficient and safer ways to use and generate the source of electricity and for our islands to be a happier, safer and better place. Electricity does many things to our islands, such as allow it to grow in a way to benefit the qualities of our lives. **Electricity is important in the growth and development of our islands, because it allows our society to financially grow into a better**

and safer place, which improves the quality of our lives, even though there are more efficient and safer ways to have the power of electricity.

If one wanted to try to keep their surroundings clean in the past, they had to work hard and have a lot of time, as having a clean house, clean clothes, and fresh food was time consuming and took a lot of effort. Many people had to hire others to help them do their work because it was time consuming and was difficult. Things were much more expensive, because they were scarce. Since they never had refrigerators or freezers to keep the foods fresh Caymanians had to eat a lot of crabs, conchs, fish and other marine life, which made these foods inexpensive. They also ate a lot of turtle or beef, and if they were lucky they could get some pork, which were butchered and eaten that day. The meats, such as crabs, conchs, fish, and other marine life were commonly eaten since they were abundant. Beef and turtle are now inexpensive and aren't as scarce, because electricity gave us refrigerators and freezers, which allows the people of the Cayman Islands to keep the foods fresh for a long time. Compared from the past to now, the food populations have switched around because of electricity, which gave us appliances to be able to keep our food tasty and fresh over a long period of time.

Electricity has made the Caymanian diet more abundant, tasty and diverse for a longer period of time. Since the Caymanians, most of the time, didn't have fresh foods, they got the treat of having cool drinks, because in the 1920's an ice making business was created. The company had a machine that made around five hundred pound of ice every two to three days. They were sold in one hundred pound blocks, and each family could only have two pounds of ice, in order to feed everyone who wanted it.

Presently, many things have been created with the resource of electricity. With electricity, we can do many things such as, use the internet with a computer, charge electronics,

entertain ourselves, make food, and make money. All of the items are important to the growth and development of our society. However, some objects that are created, based on electricity are not important as others, and are, as a result, just taken for granted. Some of these objects are electronic devices, fans, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioning. However, these inventions have impacted the growth and development of our islands, by making our islands a healthier, better and safer place.

Even though some appliances seem necessary, we actually are able live without them and without electricity; we would just be working harder, and would be less developed. Our islands without electricity would be less developed because our financial, and food industries would not be as lucrative as they are today. They are as lucrative today, because of the investors who invest on the islands and because of the tourists whom vacation on the islands and buy our products. The tourists usually will go out to a restaurant to get a taste of the island, and they will want to buy our precious souvenirs to take home, which brings money to the islands economy. As we can understand here is that electricity allows our islands to be more developed, which attracts many investors to invest and tourists to vacation here and buy our food and other items that we provide.

Electricity makes our islands a safer and happier place, because of the technology in the electronic devices that can monitor our houses and the alarms that make an alarming noise when an unexpected visitor enters one person's home. We also, because of electricity, are able to have cameras, which can record the intruder in the house. With these devices the police can track down the criminals and bring them to justice. With the availability, the government can improve the ways to have the power of electricity, and still allow our islands to be safer. Although these things are quite necessary in order to keep our islands safe, these devices are very expensive,

which can limit people from buying them. As a result, it is up to the government to use the electricity of the islands to make it a better and safer place. Some people may think that having an alarm, a camera and other devices are not necessary, and they think it is a waste of money. This is fine until they realize that a lot of unexpected crime happens, and it happens frequently. This is why having electricity is important and it makes us, as three islands, a safer place. So there are many other ways that our islands and the devices that are commonly used for crime could improve, but in common cases, such as robberies, they keep our islands safe, by dialling the police and giving consequences to the criminals. This makes our islands a happier and a safer place.

There are many advantages with having the power of electricity, some are better than others. Some of the better advantages of electricity are learning, communicating, and entertainment. Electricity makes us a more modernized society, where we use this one important thing all the time in everything that we do. Electricity changes the quality of our lives in many positive and negative ways. It changes us in positive ways because we are more modern, we can search the internet when in doubt, and we can learn and entertain ourselves. It changes the quality and the way we treat others and act towards our society in negative ways because it brings out some of our bodies worst traits such as reliance, selfishness, laziness and rudeness, it also allows cyber bullying and other types of bullying to occur.

In my daily experience, I use electricity from the time I wake to the time I fall asleep. As time has gone by people have started to rely more and more on electricity. Without electricity, humans, now, would have a hard time in life. Electricity plays another role in my daily experience, because all of the supplies I use are power based. I use electricity to keep cool, when

the sun is too hot, to charge my electronics, so I can be entertained, to get hot water for a hot cup of tea, and computers at school to I can grow to be a smart young lady.

Not only can the government improve the electronic devices that we use to monitor our homes, or the alarms, but also electricity itself, and the way that it is displayed in the society, such as poles and wires. There are many other convenient ways to have electricity like hydroelectricity, or wind electricity. This perhaps could turn our society a safer and happier place in the case of a storm or hurricane, because in storms or a hurricane the electricity wouldn't have to be shut off, because in storms you get more wind and more water which is what these other sources need to generate electricity. There are other ideas for running electricity that don't take up space, and can't create multiple problems in our society, other than hydroelectricity, wind energy and solar panels. Right now, with poles and wires, we can have a lot of problems because they can fall, create a fire in a storm and more, which is why other ways to run electricity are needed. There are also Solar Panels, which uses the sun's energy to make electricity. However, even though there are other sources for electricity not many people will be able to afford them, as they all are quite expensive, and also with being a small island, not all of the services available in other places will be available here. But in the long run it would make more sense to use a solar panel, or other electricity source, because CUC will then have to pay you for making your own energy. This means that with all of these other sources that can create electricity, our island electricity company, CUC, will be out of business from paying everyone who decides to find a more efficient and convenient way to receive power.

Without electricity we wouldn't be a well-developed society and our growth would not make our islands stronger, but weaker. With this great source we can do many things, and if it were to ever cut down on us we would not know what to do next, because we won't have the

internet to ask “What should I do, I have no power?” Life without electricity would be possible but hard, especially when, presently, a lot of our daily devices are created based on electricity. When one wanted to do chores around the house they worked a lot harder than we work today.

A personal experience of when I lost power and had no clue on what to do next, was when I spent the night at my grandmother’s house. My cousins, my sister, my brother and I always fought over who got to sleep with her. Luckily that night was my night. However little did my grandmother and I know that that night something unexpected would happen. At around 9:30 pm that night, we experienced a power outage. Usually here, in the Cayman Islands, our power outages last for a short period of time, with the exception of hurricanes. This power outage lasted until around 1:45 am. From the moment the lights flickered to the moment the lights cut out, I began to get scared and hot. When the lights had started to flicker my grandmother and I were sitting down at the kitchen table eating our favourite meal, peanut butter sandwiched. The lights were now completely out and my grandmother and I started to worry. We called some of my grandma’s relatives to see if they knew why the power had gone out, and also to comfort us a little.

After making those calls we realized that it was just a problem with CUC. We were sweating and bored. We then called my cousin and told her to bring some games and come over with her mom, dad, and little brother. Our faces were red and were dripping with sweat by the time they arrived with a battery powered fan, games and a couple flashlights. We then sat at the kitchen table and played a card game called Bingo, and also we played Bingo. It was around 1 a.m. when we were bored of playing games and we were full from eating. We all were tired, but could not sleep, so we talked some more. Sometimes our speech was blurred because the heat was so overwhelming that our thoughts were taken away from us with the past coldness of our

bodies. When we were talking about how we wished the power would turn back on, it came back and we all let out a big sigh of relief. Once we felt that cold wisp of fresh air we all laughed and said good-bye to my cousin and her family. Once they left my grandma and I took showers because we felt sticky from the sweating. After showering we fell fast asleep, and didn't wake up until about 10 am, when we started to wonder why we had woken up so late, but then realized about last night.

Electricity is a very powerful source that allows us as humans to improve our ways of living by creating materials that keep us entertained, smart, safer and healthy. It allows us, as islands, to grow and develop into a community that changes the quality of our lives. We would be able to live without this great source, but we would be working harder for longer periods of time. Perhaps it would be better to live without electricity because instead we could run around outside to keep entertained, we can walk to a friend's house to communicate, and we can write and use our brain instead of using many devices that do everything for us and our islands, such as a computer, a phone, a TV, and a gaming console. Electricity has started to change the face of the Cayman Islands and the rest of the world.

Electricity allows our society to be reliant on this one resource, which can easily be taken away from us. There are other ways to have the source and power of electricity; it just calls for deep and critical thinking. These other creations would perhaps be more expensive, but they would be more effective and safer to our islands health and growth. We can find other ways to live, without a source which is being depended on. Objects, however, that do run from electricity make our lives and our world a better, safer, happier and healthier place to live. **Electricity is important in the growth and development of our islands, because it allows our society to financially grow into a better and safer place, which makes the quality of our lives safer**

and happier. However, there are more efficient and safer ways to have the source of electricity. Electricity is very important in many positive ways, including the fact that it allows our three islands and the rest of the world to be more developed, which in better ways, changes the quality of our lives.