

XVI Certamen de Ensayo Científico

1er LUGAR, CATEGORÍA MENOR INGLÉS

XVII Certamen Nacional de Ensayo Científico, 2015

A Bare Necessity

Valezka Ortiz Grijalba, Liceo Experimental Bilingüe de Naranjo

We are a generation who was born inside of the comfort and easy way of life in the 21st century. The previous generations have worked, created and advanced in technology to be able to provide it to us now. Nowadays, we have everything at hand not knowing the cost the human race paid to get us here. Our ideas and creations leave us in awe of amazement everyday. Of course, we cannot possibly be compared to the capacities of nature in terms of energy outsourcing. Light is a factor that we depend on; can we risk losing it?

We have grown in knowledge at a fascinating speed. It all began with the curiosity of James Clerk Maxwell. His idea that light was a form of electromagnetic energy inspired Albert Einstein to a more profound investigation. Men like Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla united their genius heads to construct the light bulb and more. "Someday I'll harness that power." (Tesla, 1915); here, Tesla predicted our current control over light. We have gone from an office light bulb to the building of skyscrapers and elevators, forgetting the antique forms of light such as candles and oil lamps.

There is one source of light that we would be left as corpora without, the sun. There are other sources, such as the moon and stars, which we won't ever be able to replicate. Have you ever thought of the importance of natural light sources? If it wasn't for the Sun, there would be no more plants due to the lack of light needed for photosynthesis leaving us and many other animals without food. In other words, leaving us to die.

Humanity, we never accept our limits; we are never satisfied. Mcdermott (1996) describes what our ambition will someday accomplish, "One day scientists will overtake light and crash into the darkness". Our yearning led us to what we call artificial light. Electric light is the most common and convenient type. Human creativity has improved light's simplicity. For Example: Neon lights are gases that give out color when high-voltages of electricity pass through them. Laser lights are thin beams of light, commonly used for entertainment, astronomy and medicine. We have also discovered new light categories such as invisible light which divides into infrared and ultraviolet light. Infrared light is emitted by hot objects, just as the Sun gives out infrared radiation which we feel as heat. Ultraviolet light is the light that comes from the Sun causing sunburns and damage to our eyes.

XVI Certamen de Ensayo Científico

As we have seen, light and electricity are vital for survival. We are making ourselves more dependent on electricity and its conveniences day after day. Whether it is natural or artificial light, there are almost endless uses to it. The plans for the future are to make more efficient sources that consume less amount of energy, sadly things don't always go as planned and that is something we should definitely put into thought. We can't risk a loss like this, not now.

I declare that this essay is my original work. Where other people's work has been used (either from a printed source, Internet or any other source), this has been properly acknowledged and referenced in accordance with departmental requirements.