To obtain the knowledge necessary to answer the impact on my life and the community without electricity to my best ability, I went off the grid for three days and made a plan to support being without electricity.

To prepare, I pitched a tent outside and put some items in it that I anticipated needing to survive for these days. For food, my plan was to have fruit and a granola bar for breakfast and peanut butter sandwiches for lunch and supper; bottled water would be my only beverage. For activities, I gathered a deck of cards, board games, pencils and paper, a candle and matches, and planned to do outside activities. For sleeping, all I needed was a pillow and sleeping bag. I was expecting this to be quite simple!

The first day was not as difficult as I thought it would be and actually quite refreshing to get some firsthand experience with the great outdoors! I enjoyed myself fishing for most of the day, walking around the woods looking for deer sheds and admiring the wildlife. At sunset, my brother wanted to play video games with his friends so I was stuck playing the card game "war" myself by candlelight. Next I brought out the board game "Monopoly" and while it kept me busy for a while, I would have much rather enjoyed playing it with a circle of friends. At dark, I got out my sleeping bag and realized I really only needed it to provide something softer to sleep on as the ground is quite hard. I also thought a fan would be nice but isn't available to me with my new challenge. I heard an owl and coyotes howling in the distance, something I typically don't hear since we have central air on for most of the summer and of course the windows are closed. It was somewhat difficult falling asleep to the wildlife noises; something I wasn't accustomed to. A reflection of completing day one brought me to thinking it was different, but not too bad.

The second day I woke up to the sound of wildlife and birds chirping, which is much earlier than I typically rise. My day once again consisted of the great outdoors swimming and fishing. Due to social distancing, people are not gathering even outside as they used to, so I was starting to miss other human interactions other than my immediate family. I was starting to wonder what was going on outside my extremely limited circle - my friends, my extended family, the global pandemic, and the list goes on. I also was thinking how much I miss music and how quiet, still, and dark life is without electricity.

Day three was the point I started to think about everything I was probably missing out on. My friends and I usually communicate with each other every day and make plans of getting together. Without my phone, I felt curious and anxious as to what was going on without me. The fruit, granola bars, and peanut butter sandwiches were getting unappealing and I was missing out on the diversity of food I normally have in my refrigerator. It ended up raining, so I had to keep occupied with board games, sketching, and making paper airplanes due to not being able to do the outside activities I have been for the last few days. I started to run out of things to do as the sun went down, so once again it was bedtime.

I was happy when my challenge ended as I got to experience just how different a life is without electricity. We take electricity for granted as we walk in the house and mindlessly turn on a light to see and turn on a faucet to get water. I ate the food I had packed in my tent and drank the water in my water bottles, but that got me thinking - what if I didn't have packaged food and bottled water ... what would I eat and drink? I suppose I could have cooked the fish I caught, but how would I make fire? I played the

board games many times over and had to get creative as to what to do next to keep myself entertained. Normally I would just turn on my phone, the TV, or Xbox to entertain myself, but I couldn't do that in my tent. Communication with the rest of the world was cut off and almost non-existent because technology depends on electricity. For this reason, it makes it very difficult to cooperate with one another without technology and electricity.

I was only able to challenge myself this way because it is summer and I don't have school or a full time job. If I tried to go three days without electricity during school, it would be impossible because almost everything in school is electronic. We use computers, phones, laptops, smart boards, lights, and so much more every single day. To have a whole community to go without electricity for three days would be nearly impossible, but if I were to imagine they try, many people would struggle. People use electricity daily to cook, clean, and keep busy while they are at home. The commitment to try and eat foods that don't need refrigeration or cooked on a stovetop is tough. I also cannot think of any business that can function without electricity.

I thought I would be able to do this challenge very easily because I feel like I am a low maintenance person. I like peanut butter sandwiches and granola bars; I even have a brother to play games with me. But it did not work out as I had imagined. I suppose that since I've always had electricity, I didn't know what it was like without it.

Being without electricity made me realize it's a luxury we take for granted. It's also an expectation with the current generation and today's technology. Electricity is what makes the world go around from cooking food to host gatherings, watching television to communicate worldwide activities, and even something as simple as me

typing this on my computer to express the knowledge I gained by completing this challenge.

  Reflecting on these three days, even though I thought I had a well thought out plan, being without electricity is an experience I hope to not have to do again for a long time. With everything back to normal, I was once again able to enjoy the privilege of having the world at my fingertips. By completing this challenge, I plan to use electricity in creative ways to further my education and gain experience to give back to the world and make it the best place it can be for everyone.