It was a frigid day in New York City on New Year’s Eve. Times Square was packed with thousands upon thousands of people who were anticipating the ball to drop. The entire Eastern coast, from Maine all the way to Florida, was watching Ryan Seacrest’s live broadcast in Manhattan. Families, friends and blissful couples were chatting as their skin became dry and chills developed throughout their bodies, due to the extremely cold temperature and wind chill. But, no matter what, they would continue to wait for the hour that changed the year from two thousand and sixteen to two thousand and seventeen.

Before the New Year’s broadcast began, families gathered together for the final holiday of Winter break. They all brought appetizers, pasta dishes, pastries and many other foods to keep them energized as they anticipated the first second into two thousand and seventeen. Bars, restaurants and nightclubs were packed with young adults still trying to make the decision, of who they would kiss when the clock struck twelve! As people were gathering to meet with friends and families Ryan Seacrest’s live broadcast began and many gathered around the television. Children happily played for they knew this was the only day, that they could stay up past their bedtime and run around for hours.

Somewhere around eleven o’clock in the evening, the electricity vanished. Millions were left in complete darkness as the new year was rapidly approaching. Times Square was a sea of darkness and millennials feared for they did not know where they would charge their phones. At home, viewers were not frightened because they had flashlights and generators. Whereas
tourists and New Yorkers in Times Square were flustered and nervous. The New York City Police Department informed everyone that the electricity would be up and running in no time and to remain calm.

But then, multiple Con Edison workers arrived on the scene in their utility vehicles. They entered the main building that the ball was facing, in the hope of finding the cause of this power outage. After the electricians had arrived, the crowd became tranquil and made the best out of their holiday delay. The Long Island Power Association also worked tirelessly to assure Long Islanders that they would see the ball drop.

Amidst the New Year’s delay, New Yorkers began to live as they once did – without the use of technology. Children and parents played with board games. The bars and restaurants were filled with genuine conversation, for people were not staring at their phones for hours upon hours. They weren’t interacting with others over their computer screens; they were conversing and interacting with each other. This unexpected blackout allowed New Yorkers to remember the importance of socializing instead of using social networking websites.

Suddenly, a shock of electricity came upon New York. It was 11:50, and viewers had ten minutes to spare, before the festivities began. New Yorkers were ready to celebrate and felt they were filled with luck, for their celebrations were not ruined. One New Yorker even stated, “I am so happy that my night wasn’t ruined! This is a great sign that two thousand and seventeen will be the best year of my life!” Another jumped on stage with Meghan Trainor and screamed, “The night has just begun!”

Finally, the ball dropped and two thousand and seventeen began with an explosion of excitement and joy. After all, the blackout served a purpose to bring everyone together and to remember the importance of the holiday season.
Sometimes, we forget to put our phones down and capture the moment, and make memories. Altogether a picture is not truly worth a thousand words if we do not remember the moment it was taken. Therefore, we must always focus on the people in front of us and not just the screen upon which they are virtually presented.