

By 1884, The Edison Electric Light Company ~~delivered~~ electricity to New York's financial district ~~via~~ cables buried beneath the streets. But since Edison had chosen to use direct current, the low ~~voltage~~ electricity could travel less than a mile. Edison's system required a dozen steam-powered generating stations built just to fulfill the needs of this ~~densely populated~~ city. Rural electrification would be simply impossible.

Comment: Omit needless words.

Deleted: the method used by

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Comment: When two words jointly modify a third word, use a hyphen.

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Comment: But, this is an adverb modifying populated – so, no hyphen needed.

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~~Tesla offered a solution to this obstacle.~~ When the enigmatic Serb landed in New York in the late 1870's, he carried in his head a design for a totally new type of motor and distribution system. Unlike the direct current systems that Edison used, Tesla's motor ~~produced~~ an alternating current ~~in which~~ electricity would flow out one wire for a fraction of second and then reverse and flow out of the opposite wire (Cheney, 1981). ~~With Tesla's system,~~ the electricity could then be "transformed" to very high voltage and distributed for ~~hundreds~~ of miles. At ~~its~~ destination, the electricity could ~~be transformed back to a lower voltage~~ ~~for use in~~ electric lights, machinery or any residential appliance. ~~The design was revolutionary and practical.~~ ~~Even today, all~~ ~~electricity distributed throughout the world uses Tesla's system.~~

Comment: Avoid passive writing. Place the action "doer" at the beginning of your sentences.

Deleted: A solution to this obstacle was presented by Tesla.

Comment: Try to avoid weak verbs (e.g., "was.")

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Comment: APA style requires a comma after author's name.

Comment: Omit needless words.

Deleted: With the system invented by Tesla

Comment: Spell out any numerals higher than 10

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Comment: It's is abbreviation for "it is." Its shows possession.

Comment: Omit needless words

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Comment: A short sentence can be effective.

Comment: This paragraph needs more explanation – why was Tesla's invention so important? Added the last sentence.

Comment: APA style requires publications in italics

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In 1895, an article in *The New York Times* fully grasped the magnitude of his contribution:

As time passes, Mr. Tesla's discoveries in electrical matters assume greater and greater importance. . . . It is fair to predict that his greatest inventions will prove to be those in connection with the transmission of power by alternating currents over long lines... ("Nicola Tesla's Inventions," p. 5).

For reasons never fully understood, Edison ~~rejected~~ Tesla's ideas regarding alternating current. He had already decided upon direct current and remained

steadfast in his support of that ill-fated system. Edison hired Tesla to work for his company but the two men split after a year over a disagreement. The exact nature of the split is described differently depending on the source.