

LTW SUPPLEMENT

Sample Essays

New arrangement sections are marked in bold, and new elocution elements are marked in italics. These samples include the cumulative skills added throughout the LTW lessons, so that Essay Nine includes all of the Level I components.

ESSAY ONE

SAMPLE ESSAY A

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: the White Witch yelled at Edmund, the White Witch scared Edmund, and the White Witch was mean to the dwarf.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that the White Witch yelled at Edmund. The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that the White Witch scared Edmund. The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that the White Witch was mean to the dwarf.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because the White Witch yelled at Edmund, the White Witch scared Edmund, and the White Witch was mean to the dwarf.

SAMPLE ESSAY B

Della should cut her hair for three reasons: it is the only way she can afford a gift, she has something of value, and a big gesture equals great love.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is that it is the only way she can afford a gift. The second reason Della should cut her hair is that she has something of value. The third reason Della should cut her hair is that a big gesture equals great love.

Della should cut her hair because it is the only way she can afford a gift, she has something of value, and a big gesture equals great love.

ESSAY TWO (Sub-proofs and parallel words)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: Edmund received many warnings, he saw the White Witch acting in an evil way, and he acted in secret.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that Edmund received many warnings that the White Witch was evil. **Lucy had told Edmund that the person he called the Queen of Narnia was known as the White Witch. The Beavers had said that the White Witch was evil. We know from ~~stories~~ fairy tales, stories, and poems that witches are evil.**

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he had seen that the White Witch was evil. **Initially, the White Witch was very cruel to Edmund. His first instinct was to be scared of her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she wanted to get something from him.**

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he acted in secret. **In his very core, Edmund knew what he was doing wrong. He probably snuck away because his family would not have gone along with his plan. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying his family and innocent creatures.**

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because Edmund received many warnings that the White Witch was evil, he had seen that the White Witch was evil, and he acted in secret.

SAMPLE ESSAY B (Sub-proofs and parallel words)

Della should cut her hair for three reasons: she has something she can sacrifice, for love, and it is Christmas.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is she has something she can sacrifice. **Her long hair is the most valuable possession she owns. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she has a marketable commodity.**

The second reason Della should cut her hair is for love. **In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. Jim is a caring provider, tenderly seeing to his wife. It makes perfect sense that Della would want to find a way to return his ~~love~~ commitment, love, and sacrifice with a gesture of her own.**

The third reason Della should cut her hair is it is Christmas. **As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows serve as reminders that while everyone else may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom.**

Della should cut her hair because she has something she can sacrifice, for love, and it is Christmas.

ESSAY THREE (Exordium and *edited verbs*)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

What would you do if a pale, white, icy lady asked you to follow her? Edmund had to make that very decision. Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: ~~Edmund received many warnings~~ many people had *warned* Edmund that the White Witch was evil, he had ~~seen~~ *observed* that the White Witch was evil, and he acted in secret.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that ~~Edmund received many warnings~~ many people had *warned* Edmund that the White Witch was evil. Lucy told Edmund that the person he called “the Queen of Narnia” was known as “the White Witch.” The Beavers said that the White Witch was evil. ~~We know from~~ Fairy tales, stories, and poems *tell* us that witches are evil.

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he had ~~seen~~ *observed* that the White Witch was evil. Initially, the White Witch ~~was treated~~ him *very* cruelly. His first instinct was to ~~be scared~~ *of fear* her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she ~~wanted to~~ *get desired* something from him.

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he acted in secret. In his very core, Edmund knew that ~~what he was doing~~ *wrong* he *misbehaved*. He probably snuck away because his family would not have ~~gone along with~~ *approved of* his plan. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying his family and innocent creatures.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because ~~Edmund received many warnings~~ many people had *warned* Edmund that the White Witch was evil, he had ~~seen~~ *observed* that the White Witch was evil, and he acted in secret.

SAMPLE ESSAY B (*Exordium and edited verbs*)

Imagine ~~giving up~~ *sacrificing* your most precious possession to buy a Christmas present. Della should cut her hair for three reasons: she has something she can sacrifice, for love, and it is Christmas.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is that she has something she can sacrifice. ~~Her long hair is the most valuable possession she owns.~~ She *possesses* valuable long hair. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she ~~has~~ *owns* a marketable commodity.

The second reason Della should cut her hair is for love. In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. ~~Jim is a caring provider, tenderly seeing to his wife.~~ Jim *provides* for his wife with tender care. It makes perfect sense that Della ~~would want~~ *longs* to find a way to return his commitment, love, and sacrifice with a gesture of her own.

The third reason Della should cut her hair is that it is Christmas. As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows ~~serve as reminders~~ *remind* her that while others may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom.

Della should cut her hair because she has something she can sacrifice, for love, and it is Christmas.

ESSAY FOUR (Amplification and *Parallel phrases*)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

What would you do if a pale, white, icy lady asked you to follow her? Edmund had to make that very decision. Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: *Edmund deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family.*

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that *he deliberately ignored warnings*. Lucy had told Edmund that the person he called “the Queen of Narnia” was known as “the White Witch.” The Beavers said that the White Witch was evil. Fairy tales, stories, and poems tell us that witches are evil.

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he *carelessly overlooked the White Witch*. Initially, the White Witch

was very cruel to Edmund. His first instinct was to fear her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she desired something from him.

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he *secretly left his family*. In his very core, Edmund knew that he misbehaved. He probably snuck away because his family would not have approved of his plan. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying his family and innocent creatures.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because he *deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family*. **Edmund caused tremendous trouble for all of Narnia.**

SAMPLE ESSAY B (Amplification and Parallel phrases)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession to buy a Christmas present. Della should cut her hair for three reasons: *to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate*.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is *to sacrifice*. She possesses valuable long hair. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she owns a marketable commodity.

The second reason Della should cut her hair is *to love*. In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. Jim provides for his wife with tender care. It makes perfect sense that Della longs to find a way to return his commitment, love, and sacrifice with a gesture of her own.

The third reason Della should cut her hair is *to celebrate*. As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes.

Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows remind her that while others may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom.

Della should cut her hair *to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate*. **This sacrifice matters to our families since everyone needs to see what Christmas is about. What matters is not the value of the gifts one receives but of the gifts one gives.**

ESSAY FIVE (Division and Antithesis)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

What would you do if a pale, white, icy lady asked you to follow her? Edmund had to make that very decision. **Everyone agrees that Edmund followed the White Witch. Some believe that Edmund should have followed her, and some believe that he should not have followed her.** Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: Edmund deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he deliberately ignored warnings. Lucy had told Edmund that the person he called “the Queen of Narnia” was known as “the White Witch.” The Beavers said that the White Witch was evil. Fairy tales, stories, and poems tell us that witches are evil.

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he carelessly overlooked the White Witch. Initially, the White Witch was very cruel to Edmund. His first instinct was to fear her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she desired something from him.

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he secretly left his family. In his very core, Edmund knew that he misbehaved. He probably snuck away because his family would not have approved of his plan. *He could have been honest and open, but he was*

deceptive and secretive. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying his family and innocent creatures.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because he deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family. Edmund caused tremendous trouble for all of Narnia.

SAMPLE ESSAY B (**Division and Antithesis**)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession to buy a Christmas present. **Everyone agrees that Della greatly desires to give a gift to her husband Jim for Christmas; however, some feel Della should cut and sell her hair to pay for the gift, while others feel Della should not cut and sell her hair.** Della should cut her hair for three reasons: to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is to sacrifice. She possesses valuable long hair. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she owns a marketable commodity.

The second reason Della should cut her hair is to love. In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. Jim provides for his wife with tender care. It makes perfect sense that Della longs to find a way to return his commitment, love, and sacrifice with a gesture of her own.

The third reason Della should cut her hair is to celebrate. As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows remind her that while others may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom. *He owns a family watch with no gold chain, while she wears long hair with no gold comb.*

Della should cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. This sacrifice matters to our families since everyone needs to see what Christmas is

about. What matters is not the value of the gifts one receives but of the gifts one gives.

ESSAY SIX (Refutation and *Simile*)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

What would you do if a pale, white, icy lady asked you to follow her? Edmund had to make that very decision. Everyone agrees that Edmund followed the White Witch. Some believe that Edmund should have followed her, and some believe that he should not have followed her. Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: Edmund deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he deliberately ignored warnings. Lucy had told Edmund that the person he called “the Queen of Narnia” was known as “the White Witch.” The Beavers said that the White Witch was evil. Fairy tales, stories, and poems tell us that witches are evil.

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he carelessly overlooked the White Witch. Initially, the White Witch was very cruel to Edmund. His first instinct was to fear her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she desired something from him, *like a fisherman feeds a worm on a hook to the fish he wants to catch and eat.*

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he secretly left his family. In his very core, Edmund knew that he misbehaved. He probably snuck away because his family would not have approved of his plan. He could have been honest and open, but he was deceptive and secretive. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying his family and innocent creatures.

Some people say that Edmund should have followed the White Witch. They argue that the White Witch took care of him by feeding him Turkish Delight, speaking kindly to him, and promising him power. However, this

idea is inadequate because everyone saw the White Witch's true personality. She cared nothing for Edmund; she simply wanted to take over Narnia. Showing care to Edmund was just a means of reaching her evil goal.

In addition, people argue that Edmund should have followed the White Witch because he was alone. They say he was scared, helpless, and cold when he met her. But this argument is also invalid because Edmund was not alone later. He was with his siblings, and Lucy had already testified that the White Witch was evil. We know that Edmund followed the White Witch out of pride and selfish ambition.

Neither one of the arguments that the White Witch took care of Edmund nor that he was alone gave Edmund a sufficient reason to follow her.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because he deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family. Edmund caused tremendous trouble for all of Narnia.

SAMPLE ESSAY B (Refutation and Simile)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession to buy a Christmas present. Everyone agrees that Della greatly desires to give a gift to her husband Jim for Christmas; however, some feel Della should cut and sell her hair to pay for the gift, while others feel Della should not cut and sell her hair. Della should cut her hair for three reasons: to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is to sacrifice. She possesses valuable long hair. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she owns a marketable commodity.

The second reason Della should cut her hair is to love. In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. Jim provides for his wife with tender care. It makes perfect sense that Della longs to find a way to return his commitment, love, and

sacrifice with a gesture of her own. *She can sacrifice part of herself for Jim as a pelican might give its blood for its young.*

The third reason Della should cut her hair is to celebrate. As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows remind her that while others may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom. He owns a family watch with no gold chain, while she wears long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not sell her hair. They ask what her husband's reaction might be. They say Jim might not like her new hairstyle, he might not approve of her sacrifice, and his career might be hurt if his wife looks like a Coney Island chorus girl. But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della believes that a new watch chain might in fact help his standing in the community. A husband who willingly sacrifices so much for his wife would surely not chastise his wife for making sacrifices.

In addition, some argue that the couple's budget is reason enough to put any spare change into savings. They say the couple could hardly justify such an impractical gift in the face of their present poverty: Jim wears a shabby coat, his salary has recently been reduced, and Della must bargain with the grocers to find any savings she can. However, this reasoning is faulty. Even in the midst of less than ideal circumstances, a generous gesture can serve to remind us of the value of true love and sacrifice. Appropriate to the season of giving, Della can give.

Thus, neither Jim's potential reaction nor the couple's slim budget is enough to dissuade Della from selling her beautiful, valuable hair.

Della should cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. This sacrifice matters to our families since everyone needs to see what Christmas is about. What matters is not the value of the gifts one receives but of the gifts one gives.

ESSAY SEVEN (*Narratio and Alliteration*)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

What would you do if a pale, white, icy lady asked you to follow her? Edmund had to make that very decision. **One day, while playing hide and seek with his brother and sisters, Edmund fell through an old, forgotten wardrobe and landed in the world of Narnia. Immediately, Edmund was startled by an icy woman in an icy sleigh. She demanded to know who he was and what he was doing there. After Edmund gorged himself on her Turkish Delight, the White Witch insisted that he bring his brother and sisters to visit her castle. Later, Edmund returned to Narnia with his siblings and visited the Beavers' home. While the group planned to leave and evade the White Witch who was about to wage war with Aslan, Narnia's true king, Edmund had to decide whether to go with his family or follow the White Witch.**

Everyone agrees that Edmund followed the White Witch. Some believe that Edmund should have followed her, and some believe that he should not have followed her. Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: Edmund deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he deliberately ignored warnings. Lucy had told Edmund that the person he called "the Queen of Narnia" was known as "the White Witch." The Beavers said that the White Witch was evil. Fairy tales, stories, and poems tell us that witches are evil.

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he carelessly overlooked the White Witch. Initially, the White Witch was very cruel to Edmund. His first instinct was to fear her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she desired something from him, like a fisherman feeds a worm on a hook to the fish he wants to catch and eat.

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he secretly left his family. In his very core, Edmund knew that he misbehaved. He probably snuck away because his family would not have approved of his plan. He could have been honest and open, but he was deceptive and secretive. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying his family and innocent creatures.

Some people say that Edmund should have followed the White Witch. They argue that the White Witch took care of him by feeding him Turkish Delight, speaking kindly to him, and promising him power. However, this idea is inadequate because everyone saw the White Witch's true personality. She cared nothing for Edmund; she simply wanted to take over Narnia. Showing care to Edmund was just a means of reaching her evil goal.

In addition, people argue that Edmund should have followed the White Witch because he was alone. They say he was scared, helpless, and cold when he met her. But this argument is also invalid because Edmund was not alone later. He was with his siblings, and Lucy had already testified that the White Witch was evil. We know that Edmund followed the White Witch out of pride and selfish ambition.

Neither one of the arguments that the White Witch took care of Edmund nor that he was alone gave Edmund a sufficient reason to follow her.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because he deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family. Edmund *caused careless casualties* for all of Narnia.

SAMPLE ESSAY B (*Narratio and Alliteration*)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession to buy a Christmas present. **Della and Jim, newlyweds living in New York City, are quickly finding out that married life is not without problems. Jim's salary has been reduced while their financial obligations have remained the same. In**

spite of her thrift and industry, Della finds herself on Christmas Eve with less than two dollars to *purchase a present for her precious husband.*

Everyone agrees that Della greatly desires to give a gift to her husband Jim for Christmas; however, some feel Della should cut and sell her hair to pay for the gift, while others feel Della should not cut and sell her hair. Della should cut her hair for three reasons: to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is to sacrifice. She possesses valuable long hair. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she owns a marketable commodity.

The second reason Della should cut her hair is to love. In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. Jim provides for his wife with tender care. It makes perfect sense that Della longs to find a way to return his commitment, love, and sacrifice with a gesture of her own. She can sacrifice part of herself for Jim as a pelican might give its blood for its young.

The third reason Della should cut her hair is to celebrate. As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows remind her that while others may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom. He owns a family watch with no gold chain, while she wears long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not sell her hair. They ask what her husband's reaction might be. They say Jim might not like her new hairstyle, he might not approve of her sacrifice, and his career might be hurt if his wife looks like a Coney Island chorus girl. But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della believes that a new watch chain might in fact help his standing in the community. A husband who willingly sacrifices so much for his wife would surely not chastise his wife for making sacrifices.

In addition, some argue that the couple's budget is reason enough to put any spare change into savings. They say the couple can hardly justify such

an impractical gift in the face of their present poverty: Jim wears a shabby coat, his salary has recently been reduced, and Della must bargain with the grocers to find any savings she can. However, this reasoning is faulty. Even in the midst of less than ideal circumstances, a generous gesture can serve to remind us of the value of true love and sacrifice. Appropriate to the season of giving, Della can give.

Thus, neither Jim's potential reaction nor the couple's slim budget is enough to dissuade Della from selling her beautiful, valuable hair.

Della should cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. This sacrifice matters to our families since everyone needs to see what Christmas is about. What matters is not the value of the gifts one receives but of the gifts one gives.

ESSAY EIGHT (*Metaphor*)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

What would you do if a pale, white, icy lady asked you to follow her? Edmund had to make that very decision. One day, while playing hide and seek with his brother and sisters, Edmund fell through an old, forgotten wardrobe and landed in the world of Narnia. Immediately, Edmund was startled by an icy woman in an icy sleigh. She demanded to know who he was and what he was doing there. After Edmund gorged himself on her Turkish Delight, the White Witch insisted that he bring his brother and sisters to visit her castle. Later, Edmund returned to Narnia with his siblings and visited the Beavers' home. The group planned to leave and evade the White Witch who was about to wage war with Aslan, Narnia's true king. Edmund had to decide whether to go with his family or follow the White Witch.

Everyone agrees that Edmund followed the White Witch. Some believe that Edmund should have followed her, and some believe that he should not have followed her. Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: Edmund deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he deliberately ignored warnings. Lucy had told Edmund that the person he called “the Queen of Narnia” was known as “the White Witch.” The Beavers said that the White Witch was evil. Fairy tales, stories, and poems tell us that witches are evil.

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he carelessly overlooked the White Witch. Initially, the White Witch was very cruel to Edmund. His first instinct was to fear her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she desired something from him, like a fisherman feeds a worm on a hook to the fish he wants to catch and eat.

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he secretly left his family. In his very core, Edmund knew that he misbehaved. He probably snuck away because his family would not have approved of his plan. He could have been honest and open, but he was deceptive and secretive. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying innocent creatures and his family, *which was his life preserver*.

Some people say that Edmund should have followed the White Witch. They argue that the White Witch took care of him by feeding him Turkish Delight, speaking kindly to him, and promising him power. However, this idea is inadequate because everyone saw the White Witch’s true personality. She cared nothing for Edmund; she simply wanted to take over Narnia. Showing care to Edmund was just a means of reaching her evil goal.

In addition, people argue that Edmund should have followed the White Witch because he was alone. They say he was scared, helpless, and cold when he met her. But this argument is also invalid because Edmund was not alone later. He was with his siblings, and Lucy had already testified that the White Witch was evil. We know that Edmund followed the White Witch out of pride and selfish ambition.

Neither one of the arguments that the White Witch took care of Edmund nor that he was alone gave Edmund a sufficient reason to follow her.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because he deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family. Edmund caused careless casualties for all of Narnia.

SAMPLE ESSAY B (*Metaphor*)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession to buy a Christmas present. Della and Jim, newlyweds living in New York City, are quickly finding out that married life is not without problems. Jim's salary has been reduced while their financial obligations have remained the same. In spite of her thrift and industry, Della finds herself on Christmas Eve with less than two dollars to purchase a present for her precious husband.

Everyone agrees that Della greatly desires to give a gift to her husband Jim for Christmas; however, some feel Della should cut and sell her hair to pay for the gift, while others feel Della should not cut and sell her hair. Della should cut her hair for three reasons: to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is to sacrifice. She possesses valuable long hair. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she owns a marketable commodity, *her treasure chest filled with gold*.

The second reason Della should cut her hair is to love. In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. Jim provides for his wife with tender care. It makes perfect sense that Della longs to find a way to return his commitment, love, and sacrifice with a gesture of her own. She can sacrifice part of herself for Jim as a pelican might give its blood for its young.

The third reason Della should cut her hair is to celebrate Christmas. As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows remind her that while others may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family

heirloom. He owns a family watch with no gold chain, while she wears long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not sell her hair. They ask what her husband's reaction might be. They say Jim might not like her new hairstyle, he might not approve of her sacrifice, and his career might be hurt if his wife looks like a Coney Island chorus girl. But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della believes that a new watch chain might in fact help his standing in the community. A husband who willingly sacrifices so much for his wife would surely not chastise his wife for making sacrifices.

In addition, some argue that the couple's budget is reason enough to put any spare change into savings. They say the couple can hardly justify such an impractical gift in the face of their present poverty: Jim wears a shabby coat, his salary has recently been reduced, and Della must bargain with the grocers to find any savings she can. However, this reasoning is faulty. Even in the midst of less than ideal circumstances, a generous gesture can serve to remind us of the value of true love and sacrifice. Appropriate to the season of giving, Della can give.

Thus, neither Jim's potential reaction nor the couple's slim budget is enough to dissuade Della from selling her beautiful, valuable hair.

Della should cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. This sacrifice matters to our families since everyone needs to see what Christmas is about. What matters is not the value of the gifts one receives but of the gifts one gives.

ESSAY NINE (*Assonance*)

SAMPLE ESSAY A

What would you do if a pale, white, icy lady asked you to follow her? Edmund had to make that very decision. One day, while playing hide and seek with his brother and sisters, Edmund fell through an old, forgotten wardrobe and landed in the world of Narnia. Immediately, Edmund was startled by an icy woman in an icy sleigh. She demanded to know who he

was and what he was doing there. After Edmund gorged himself on her Turkish Delight, the White Witch insisted that he bring his brother and sisters to visit her castle. Later, Edmund returned to Narnia with his siblings and visited the Beavers' home. While the group planned to leave and evade the White Witch who was about to wage war with Aslan, Narnia's true king, Edmund had to decide whether to go with his family or follow the White Witch.

Everyone agrees that Edmund followed the White Witch. Some believe that Edmund should have followed her, and some believe that he should not have followed her. Edmund should not have followed the White Witch for three reasons: Edmund deliberately ignored warnings, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family.

The first reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he deliberately ignored warnings. Lucy had told Edmund that the person he called "the Queen of Narnia" was known as "the White Witch" to *Narnians: real creatures, fearless and free*. The Beavers said that the White Witch was evil. Fairy tales, stories, and poems tell us that witches are evil.

The second reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he carelessly overlooked the White Witch. Initially, the White Witch was very cruel to Edmund. His first instinct was to fear her. She fed him Turkish Delight only when she desired something from him, like a fisherman feeds a worm on a hook to the fish he wants to catch and eat.

The third reason Edmund should not have followed the White Witch is that he secretly left his family. In his very core, Edmund knew that he misbehaved. He probably snuck away because his family would not have approved of his plan. He could have been honest and open, but he was deceptive and secretive. Edmund seemed to know he was betraying innocent creatures and his family, which was his life preserver.

Some people say that Edmund should have followed the White Witch. They argue that the White Witch took care of him by feeding him Turkish Delight, speaking kindly to him, and promising him power. However, this idea is inadequate because everyone saw the White Witch's true

personality. She cared nothing for Edmund; she simply wanted to take over Narnia. Showing care to Edmund was just a means of reaching her evil goal.

In addition, people argue that Edmund should have followed the White Witch because he was alone. They say he was scared, helpless, and cold when he met her. But this argument is also invalid because Edmund was not alone later. He was with his siblings, and Lucy had already testified that the White Witch was evil. We know that Edmund followed the White Witch out of pride and selfish ambition.

Neither one of the arguments that the White Witch took care of Edmund nor that he was alone gave Edmund a sufficient reason to follow her.

Edmund should not have followed the White Witch because he deliberately ignored a warning, carelessly overlooked the White Witch, and secretly left his family. Edmund caused careless casualties for all of Narnia.

SAMPLE ESSAY B (*Assonance*)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession to buy a Christmas present. Della and Jim, newlyweds living in New York City, are quickly finding out that married life is not without problems. Jim's salary has been reduced while their financial obligations have remained the same. In spite of her thrift and industry, Della finds herself on Christmas Eve with less than two dollars to purchase a present for her precious husband.

Everyone agrees that Della greatly desires to give a gift to her husband Jim for Christmas; however, some feel Della should cut and sell her hair to pay for the gift, while others feel Della should not cut and sell her hair. Della should cut her hair for three reasons: to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate.

The first reason Della should cut her hair is to sacrifice. She possesses valuable long hair. Sacrificing her hair will allow her to shop for Jim. She may not have much money, but she owns a marketable commodity, her treasure chest filled with gold.

The second reason Della should cut her hair is to love. In the throes of young love, this dear wife desires to show her husband the depth of her love for him. Jim provides for his wife with tender care. It makes perfect sense that Della longs to find a way to return his commitment, love, and sacrifice with a gesture of her own. She can sacrifice part of herself for Jim as a pelican might give its blood for its young.

The third reason Della should cut her hair is to celebrate Christmas. As the season of giving surrounds her, Della probably thinks of the approaching holiday everywhere she goes. Since she lives in New York City, advertisements and shop windows remind her that while others may be shopping for this special occasion, she cannot. If she cuts her hair, she can give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom. He owns a family watch with no gold chain, while she wears long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not sell her hair. They ask what her husband's reaction might be. They say Jim might not like her new hairstyle, he might not approve of her sacrifice, and his career might be hurt if his wife looks like a Coney Island chorus girl. But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della believes that a new watch chain might in fact help his standing in the community. A husband who willingly sacrifices so much for his wife would surely not *chastise his bride for sacrificing prizes in her life*.

In addition, some argue that the couple's budget is reason enough to put any spare change into savings. They say the couple can hardly justify such an impractical gift in the face of their present poverty: Jim wears a shabby coat, his salary has recently been reduced, and Della must bargain with the grocers to find any savings she can. However, this reasoning is faulty. Even in the midst of less than ideal circumstances, a generous gesture can serve to remind us of the value of true love and sacrifice. Appropriate to the season of giving, Della can give.

Thus, neither Jim's potential reaction nor the couple's slim budget is enough to dissuade Della from selling her beautiful, valuable hair.

Della should cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. This sacrifice matters to our families since everyone needs to see what Christmas is about. What matters is not the value of the gifts one receives but of the gifts one gives.