

LTW SUPPLEMENT
Past tense sample essays
“The Gift of the Magi”

Many people have asked to see the Essay B samples written in past tense. Here are those samples.

ESSAY ONE

Della should have cut her hair for three reasons: she had something she could sacrifice, for love, and it was Christmas.

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is she had something she could sacrifice. The second reason Della should have cut her hair is for love. The third reason Della should have cut her hair is it was Christmas.

Della should have cut her hair because she had something she could sacrifice, for love, and it was Christmas.

ESSAY TWO (Sub-proofs and parallel words)

Della should have cut her hair for three reasons: she had something she could sacrifice, for love, and it was Christmas.

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is she had something she could sacrifice. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. Cutting her hair was almost a permanent decision. She did not have much money, but she had a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is that it was Christmas. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she went. In a large city such as New York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows

probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she cut her hair, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom.

Della should have cut her hair because she had something she could sacrifice, for love, and it was Christmas.

ESSAY THREE (Exordium and *edited verbs*)

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

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is she could sacrifice. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. When Della cut her hair, she *decided* to have shorter hair for a long time. She might not have had much money, but she *possessed* a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is *to celebrate* Christmas. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she *walked*. In a large city such as New York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she *sacrificed* her hair, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom.

Della should have cut her hair because she *could sacrifice*, for love, and to celebrate Christmas.

ESSAY FOUR (Amplification and *Parallel phrases*)

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

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is *to sacrifice*. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. When Della cut her hair, she decided to have shorter hair for a long time. She might not have had much money, but she possessed a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is *to celebrate*. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she walked. In a large city such as New York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she sacrificed her hair, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom.

Della should have cut her hair *to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate*. **Her sacrifice matters to our friends and families and members of our communities 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)

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

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is to sacrifice. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. When Della cut her hair, she decided to have shorter hair for a long time. She might not have had much money, but she possessed a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is to celebrate Christmas. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she walked. In a large city such as New York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she sacrificed her hair, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom because *he owned a family watch with no gold chain, while she wore her long hair with no gold comb.*

Della should have cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. Her sacrifice matters to our friends and families and members of our communities 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)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession. Everyone agrees that Della yearned to give a gift to her husband, Jim, for Christmas; however, some believe Della should have cut and sold her hair to pay for the gift, while others believe Della should not have cut and sold her hair. Della should have cut her hair for three reasons: to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate.

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is to sacrifice. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. When Della cut her hair, she decided to have shorter hair for a long time. She might not have had much money, but she possessed a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is to celebrate Christmas. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she walked. In a large city such as New York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she sacrificed her hair, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom because he owned a family watch with no gold chain, while she wore her long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not have sold her hair. They say her husband's reaction might have been a negative one. They say Jim might not have liked her new hairstyle, he might not have approved of her sacrifice, and his career might have been hurt if his wife looked like a "Coney Island chorus girl." But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della claimed that a new watch chain might in fact have helped 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 was reason enough to put any spare change into savings. They could hardly have justified such an impractical gift in the face of their poverty: Jim wore a shabby coat, his salary had been reduced, and Della needed to bargain with the grocers to find savings. However, this reasoning is faulty. Even in circumstances that are less than ideal, a generous gesture can serve to remind us of the value of true love and sacrifice. Appropriate to the season of giving, Della gave.

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

Della should have cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. Her sacrifice matters to our friends and families and members of our communities 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)

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

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

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is to sacrifice. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. When Della cut her hair, she decided to have shorter hair for a long time. She might not have had much money, but she possessed a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is to celebrate Christmas. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she walked. In a large city such as New

York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she sacrificed her hair, *her treasure chest of gold*, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom because he owned a family watch with no gold chain, while she wore her long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not have sold her hair. They say her husband's reaction might have been a negative one. They say Jim might not have liked her new hairstyle, he might not have approved of her sacrifice, and his career might have been hurt if his wife looked like a "Coney Island chorus girl." But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della claimed that a new watch chain might in fact have helped 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 was reason enough to put any spare change into savings. They could hardly have justified such an impractical gift in the face of their poverty: Jim wore a shabby coat, his salary had been reduced, and Della needed to bargain with the grocers to find savings. However, this reasoning is faulty. Even in circumstances that are less than ideal, a generous gesture can serve to remind us of the value of true love and sacrifice. Appropriate to the season of giving, Della gave.

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

Della should have cut her hair to sacrifice, to love, and to celebrate. Her sacrifice matters to our friends and families and members of our communities 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*)

Imagine sacrificing your most precious possession. Della and Jim, newlyweds living in New York City, quickly learned that married life was not without problems. Jim's salary had been reduced, and their financial obligations remained the same. In spite of her thrift and industry, Della found herself on

Christmas Eve with less than two dollars to purchase a present for her precious husband.

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

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is to sacrifice. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. When Della cut her hair, she decided to have shorter hair for a long time. She might not have had much money, but she possessed a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is to celebrate Christmas. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she walked. In a large city such as New York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she sacrificed her hair, *her treasure chest of gold*, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom because he owned a family watch with no gold chain, while she wore her long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not have sold her hair. They say her husband's reaction might have been a negative one. They say Jim might not have liked her new hairstyle, he might not have approved of her sacrifice, and his career might have been hurt if his wife looked like a "Coney Island chorus girl." But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della claimed that a new watch chain might in fact have helped 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 was reason enough to put any spare change into savings. They could hardly have justified such an impractical gift in the face of their poverty: Jim wore a shabby coat, his salary had been reduced, and Della needed to bargain with the grocers to find savings. However, this reasoning is faulty. Even in circumstances that are less than ideal, a generous gesture can serve to remind us of the value of true love and sacrifice. Appropriate to the season of giving, Della gave.

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

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ESSAY NINE (*Assonance*)

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

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

The first reason Della should have cut her hair is to sacrifice. Her long hair was the most valuable possession she owned. When Della cut her hair, she decided to have shorter hair for a long time: *a high-priced and mighty sacrifice*. She might not have had much money, but she possessed a marketable commodity.

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

The third reason Della should have cut her hair is to celebrate Christmas. As the season of giving surrounded her, Della was likely reminded of the approaching holiday everywhere she walked. In a large city such as New York, the Christmas advertisements, newspapers, and shop windows probably reminded her that while others were shopping for the special occasion, she could not. However, when she sacrificed her hair, her treasure chest of gold, she was able to give Jim not only a gift but also a perfect complement to his family heirloom because he owned a family watch with no gold chain, while she wore her long hair with no gold comb.

Some claim that Della should not have sold her hair. They say her husband's reaction might have been a negative one. They say Jim might not have liked her new hairstyle, he might not have approved of her sacrifice, and his career might have been hurt if his wife looked like a "Coney Island chorus girl." But there is no evidence to support these assertions. Della claimed that a new watch chain might in fact have helped his standing in the community. A husband who willingly sacrifices so much for his wife would surely not chastise his wife for making sacrifices.

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