

## **Long hair: better than short hair?**

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When are you going to get a real haircut? My family and friends tend to ask me this question. I think it should be my choice when I get a haircut, or the way I want it trimmed. I think long hair looks good on me and I should be able to style it and keep it the way I want. In this essay I will share what family and friends say about my hair, but why it is important for me to keep it long.

My friends at school say, “Why don’t you have short hair like your twin brother does?” I understand where they’re coming from being brothers and identical twins, but it’s because I don’t want the same identity as him, and long hair fits me better than it fits him. People think that my brother and I, as twins, are supposed to have the same identity, wear the same clothes, and do the same activities as each other. Our hair is a way of showing that we do not share everything in common. My brother has always had short hair to the point where it is not able to curl. Whereas I have worn my hair longer for several years to where it gets super curly and forms wings on the sides. This helps me be more outgoing in public. It looks cool and is considered a trend in the new generation. What I want people to realize is even though we are twins, does not mean we are the same person and should not be required to have the same hairstyle.

The Bible says, “So today we, too, can have no other custom than that men wear short hair and that women wear long hair to the worship of God.” (1 Corinthians 11:14, 16. Good News for Modern Man). I think the new generation is more common for men to wear long hair instead of short hair. I disagree with the verse in 1 Corinthians, because images that I have seen of Jesus shows that he has long hair instead of short hair. Being a Christian of God, an example of this is in the movie “The Passion of Christ.” In this movie, Jesus Christ is portrayed as having long hair. This shows that it is okay for men to wear long hair. This movie also is very important to me as it symbolizes that Jesus Christ has long hair just like I do.

My Dad and Grandpa, growing up in the older generation, always grew up having short hair, so they think I should have short hair just like them. Every time I see my grandpa, he makes at least one comment about my hair such as, "You still haven't got a haircut since the last time I saw you, you know I got clippers in the garage if you need them." Then my dad always makes jokes and comments such as, "I'm going to take the clippers through your hair while you're sleeping." Even though my dad and Grandpa are joking, imagine if they were not. If they took a clippers through my hair while I was sleeping I would not know what to say to them. Someone from my generation who has long hair is my favorite music artist, The Kid Lario. He is only 19 years old and is a famous rapper who is also becoming the new generation for rap music. Another celebrity is the actor who plays Dustin in my favorite Netflix series, Stranger Things. These are further examples of males in my generation who have long hair, showing it may be more acceptable for boys to wear their hair long.

Society tends to believe if you have long hair, you must not care about your appearance. They tend to believe that if it is not clean cut, you must be lazy and not care about how you look to others. They also might believe it's harder to get a job with messy, long hair than people with short hair. They may think people with short hair look more fit for the job and give a better appearance to customers. I think you should not be judged or looked at differently for the type of hair you decide to have. I also think that just because I have long hair does not mean I am lazy. I do take the time to get ready every day and care about my appearance. I feel like long hair shows more of a commitment to your appearance and dedication. It takes more time to get ready every day as compared to people with short hair that might be able to wake up and do nothing to it. I also have given 100% in all the jobs I have worked at, and have even been assigned to certain tasks that others have not. This is based on my strong work ethic, and not my appearance. What I want others to not assume is that people with longer hair might have a stronger work ethic than people with short hair.

My family members say, "my hair is way too long and call me nicknames for it." I think they're over-exaggerating because it is not even that long, and I should not get called different names for it. My Aunt Melissa always calls me Medusa because she says that is what my long, curly hair reminds her of. My mom sometimes calls me George Washington because of the way I part my hair with my curls. I don't think it's fair that I am the only one in my family to get called different names or have jokes made about me because of my hair. I also feel like if I were a girl, my family wouldn't make jokes about it because it is more acceptable for girls to have long hair. I wish my family would realize that every time they call me by a different name, it makes me not want to respond or listen to them.

What I want people to take away from this essay is, I have the right to wear my hair the way that I like it. My long hair means a lot to me as it gives me confidence about my appearance. At the end of the day, it should be my decision on whether I decide to have long hair. After writing this paper, I wonder what comes to people's minds when they look at me. Is it about my hair? One story I have not shared yet is the time when one of my best friends said to me, "Your hair is so messy and curly, it looks like you have Arby's curly fries on your head or off-brand Mac and Cheese." At that moment I froze and did not know what to say to him. I wish I had said to him, "Why does it matter if my hair looks like that or not? it's really not for you to decide." It is hard to hear the comments and nicknames said about my hair sometimes, but I try to put them aside and decide for myself when I need a haircut or not. I just really want to show how much I value my long hair and hope others support me.