

TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN EULOGY

by LESLIE TYE-PARSONS

Emotionally bewildering is usually the first thought we have about writing our own eulogy. Before starting, think about how you look at dying and how you will face the inevitable. Are you afraid or accepting?

Some may find it very annoying and confronting to write their own eulogy; others may find comfort in writing their own story. Rather than see it as morbid, regard it as leaving a helpful message for your family. It is difficult for them to put your life story together accurately at a stressful and sad time.



1. Determine if you want your eulogy in the first or third person. Using either "I" or "s/he" will give you the right tone to start your writing.
2. Determine what you want to say in your funeral speech. Should it be a farewell speech, a preaching to others, or a biography recalling your life.
3. Which points do you want to emphasise in your eulogy. Is it your hardships, your triumphs, your childhood, your passions ...?
4. Determine which part of your life is a blooper. Funny memories can lighten the mood for others.
5. To aid comprehension for others reading your eulogy, use a computer rather than handwrite it.
6. Try to make your eulogy optimistic. Being positive will lighten the load for your family and friends. Remember this is an emotional and sensitive time for them.

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

Birthplace	Early Life	Teens (Qualifications/Trade/Profession)
Marriage	Children	Family Life
Personality	Achievements	Community Service
Political Ideals	Occupation/Work	Hobbies
Nature/Animals	Quotations	Music, The Arts, Literature

HUSBAND/WIFE: Talk about how you met. Talk about the proposal. Talk about the little things only you knew about and loved – even if they were irritating. Talk directly to your loved one. Tell them what made them great in your eyes or what you will miss most about them. Talk about adventures you had together.

CHILDREN: What have they taught you? Talk about their birth, about what kind of child they were, or their first interests. What bothered you about them – remember it is okay to talk about their adult lives. Do they have a partner, or children or their own?

BROTHER/SISTER: Did you always get along? Talk about your arguments as children, how you admired them and looked up to them. Tell stories from childhood and which qualities made them great. Talk about their professions and what you will miss most about your brother/sister.

EULOGY: Speech or writing in praise of a person

OBITUARY: Usually newspaper notice of death & brief biography of deceased

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