

Eulogies

What is a eulogy?

A eulogy is a speech or a tribute given at a funeral or memorial service to honor and remember the life of a deceased person. It is a heartfelt and often personalised reflection on the person's character, achievements, and impact on others. Eulogies can be delivered by family members, close friends, or even colleagues of the deceased.

Why do we have eulogies?

Eulogies serve several important purposes in the grieving process:

- They provide an opportunity for loved ones to express their feelings of loss and pay tribute to the deceased.
- Eulogies help to celebrate the person's life, sharing cherished memories and highlighting their qualities.
- A eulogy can offer comfort and support to those mourning the loss, fostering a sense of community and shared grief.

Who writes the eulogy?

It is common for a close family member or a close friend to take on the task of writing the eulogy. They can be someone who knew the deceased well providing personal insights and anecdotes. Professional writers, or celebrants, can also be hired to craft a eulogy if needed.

Who reads the eulogy?

Delivery of the eulogy typically falls to the author. Though in some instances, the author may prefer to entrust another family member, friend, religious leader, or professional speaker to capture the essence of their loved one and convey it to the audience.

When is a eulogy read?

Eulogies are usually delivered during a funeral or memorial service after prayer or reflection and before readings, songs or photo tributes. The timing of delivering a eulogy depends on factors including; cultural traditions, religious traditions and the wishes of family members. In some cases, multiple eulogies are shared by friends and family, providing different perspectives on the life of the deceased.

Remember...

- Delivering a eulogy might uncover some unexpected emotions.
- When delivering a eulogy speak slowly and clearly using high and low pitches.
- Don't be afraid to pause when delivering a eulogy - it can be helpful when emotions are strong.
- It is ok to be nervous when speaking about someone you love in front of loved ones, friends and guests.
- Relax and take your time when sharing your eulogy.

Step 1 - Brainstorm

- Biographical information
- Stories from friends and family
- Funny stories about the deceased
- A theme to organise ideas
- How would they like to be remembered?
- Read eulogy examples for ideas

Step 2 - Introduction

- Acknowledge why everyone is gathered
- Introduce yourself and your relationship to the deceased
- Thank family, friends and guests for attending

Step 3 - Short Bio of Their Life

- Place and date of birth
- Important family members
- Significant events and details
- Talk about their spouse/partner, and any children and/or grandchildren

Step 4 - Special Memories & Stories

- Memories and stories that are special
- Life achievements, talents, passions and hobbies
- Unique and special qualities
- Use gentle humour

Step 5 - Words of Comfort & Goodbye

- Lessons the deceased taught you
- The impact they had on your life and the lives of others
- Finish by saying a final goodbye - a special poem, a quote, or a personal goodbye spoken from the heart

Step 6 - Ask Someone to Proofread

- Are the names and dates correct?
- Has the essence of the deceased being captured accurately?
- How is the overall tone?
- Are there any important events, memories, stories not mentioned?

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