

EULOGY

ASSIGNMENT: You are asked to write a eulogy--your eulogy. The eulogy should be a review of the favorable details and an impressive recounting of your worth in life as seen by a friend or relative speaking several days after your death. You have an advantage few others will ever have, you will be able to write and determine what the speaker says. The person "doing" the eulogy should be identified and his/her relationship to the dead made known. There are no restrictions on the content or form--except that it be between 4-5 minutes and represent what you would like someone to say about you and your life. This should take place 10+ years from now.

Speech Outline

I. Introduction:

- A. Establish your connection: "Uncle John was one of my favorite people because. . ."
- B. Purpose: "Today, we are here to celebrate John Aitken's life."

II. Body of Speech (Tell two or three of the person's strengths, contributions to the family, or contributions to the world).

- A. State person's place of birth, family, and education.
- B. State person's relatives... son / daughter of.....
- C. List hobbies, activities, and passions
- D. List accomplishments, successes
- E. Recount a personal story about the person
- F. Use humor to lighten the atmosphere
"George Bernard Shaw once said: "If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance." Uncle John was that kind of person who always turned problems into a dance."
- G. List living survivors....

III. Conclusion

- A. Recount why the person was so special:
"Uncle John has touched the lives of his family and friends in ways we will always remember.
- B. End with an appropriate inspirational or uplifting comment or quote.
"Uncle John was no Mother Teresa, but he lived by her words: "Smile at each other."

WAYS TO WRITE A EULOGY:

Chronological or Life History – this type of eulogy presentation talks about the person's life, awards and achievements. You talk about their experiences, share anecdotes from their journal that remind you of the person. This could be factual and may allow you to distance yourself from the grieving emotion you are feeling at the moment.

- **Shared Memories** – these are your personal recollections. This could be easier to write but the hardest type of eulogy to present because this is based on your personal memories. You are not only talking about the deceased, but you may also be exposing yourself to the pain of losing a loved one.
- **Tribute** – this form is usually used in obituaries in the newspaper. This type of eulogy focuses on the achievements and accomplishments of the person you lost.
- **Legacy** – this type of eulogy allows you to focus on the achievements or projects that person is leaving behind; it could be his family, his profession or a project that he has undertaken.
- **Using Main Points** – this is the most common way of making not just a eulogy, but any kind of speeches. You choose major points about the person’s life and use this to highlight your thoughts. Summarize the points you used in the entirety of your speech upon the conclusion of your eulogy.
- **Special Theme** – there are different themes or concepts that you may use in the preparation of the eulogy: religious, humorous, toasts, or given for someone unknown.

Eulogy for a Grandmother

To tell you the truth I had a hard time putting all my granny’s good traits into writing. No matter how hard I try, I can never do justice to what she overcame in her lifetime. I know we are all grieving today for we all lost a great lady. But I know wherever she is now she’s happy and contented with what she left us.

She was a mother, a sister and a friend to all of us. I’m sure each and every one of you here today has something to share on how my grandmother touched your life. She shared a lot of good memories, especially with me, her favorite grandchild. We shared lots of things together and she was one of my favorite mentors. I don’t know if I can still be the same person I was now that she’s gone. I can remember the last activity we did together; we went out to watch a movie. As some of you already know my grandmother really loved to watch classic love stories. Although we never agreed on what to watch, I always enjoyed our times together. She’d always ask odd questions about the actors or about the story. And I’d just laugh at her and she’d keep on asking until she got the answer she wanted.

My granny was a very strong woman and she always got her way. Maybe that’s one quality I got from her. She was also a very good adviser. I personally would seek her advice before I’d go to my parents. We always had short talks. Even if I didn’t finish what I wanted to ask her she already had an answer for it. She was also the kind of person that would think about other people before herself. She never liked asking for help but she was always ready to lend a helping hand to others. She would do everything in her power to help other people.

Although she never got the chance, I think in her own way she was able to show us how important we all were to her. We may no longer see her but we’ll always have these special moments we shared with her. She will always have a special part in our hearts. Let’s just be thankful that we knew a special lady like my grandmother