

HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY

How to Write an Obituary: A Thoughtful Guide to Honoring a Loved One

How to Write an Obituary is a question many face during a difficult time. Crafting an obituary is both a responsibility and a tribute—it's a way to honor the life of someone who has passed away while informing friends, family, and the community of their passing. Although it might feel overwhelming or emotional, writing an obituary can be a meaningful process that helps preserve memories and celebrate a person's unique journey.

Understanding the basics of obituary writing and knowing what elements to include can make this task more approachable. This guide will walk you through the essential steps, offer helpful tips, and explore the nuances of creating a heartfelt obituary that truly captures the essence of your loved one.

What Is an Obituary and Why Is It Important?

An obituary is a public notice announcing a person's death, typically published in newspapers, online memorials, or funeral home websites. Beyond its informative role, an obituary serves as a lasting tribute to the deceased, reflecting their personality, achievements, and the impact they had on others.

Writing an obituary is a way to share the story of a life lived, provide details about funeral or memorial services, and offer comfort to those grieving by celebrating the person's legacy. It also serves as a historical record that family members and future generations can look back on.

Key Elements to Include When Writing an Obituary

When learning how to write an obituary, it's helpful to know the standard components that most obituaries contain. These elements create a comprehensive picture of the person's life and passing.

Basic Information

Start by including:

- Full name of the deceased, including any nicknames
- Age at the time of death
- Date and place of death
- Date and place of birth

This information grounds the obituary and provides essential facts for readers.

Biographical Details

Here, you can include:

- Career highlights or professional accomplishments
- Educational background
- Military service if applicable
- Memberships in organizations or clubs
- Hobbies, passions, or interests that defined the person

THESE DETAILS HELP PAINT A FULLER PICTURE OF WHO THE PERSON WAS BEYOND BASIC FACTS.

FAMILY INFORMATION

LISTING SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO PRECEDED THE DECEASED IN DEATH IS CUSTOMARY. THIS USUALLY INCLUDES:

- SPOUSE OR PARTNER
- CHILDREN AND THEIR SPOUSES
- GRANDCHILDREN
- SIBLINGS
- SOMETIMES CLOSE FRIENDS OR CARETAKERS WHO WERE LIKE FAMILY

MENTIONING FAMILY CONNECTIONS HONORS THOSE RELATIONSHIPS AND CAN HELP READERS RECOGNIZE TIES.

SERVICE INFORMATION

PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT FUNERAL, MEMORIAL, OR CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES, INCLUDING:

- DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF THE SERVICE
- WHETHER THE SERVICE IS PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
- ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (E.G., DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS)

THIS ALLOWS THOSE WISHING TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO KNOW HOW AND WHEN TO PARTICIPATE.

PERSONAL TOUCHES

TO TRULY MAKE AN OBITUARY STAND OUT, CONSIDER ADDING:

- A BRIEF ANECDOTE OR STORY THAT REFLECTS THE PERSON'S CHARACTER
- FAVORITE QUOTES, SAYINGS, OR SCRIPTURES
- EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE TOWARD CAREGIVERS OR MEDICAL STAFF
- SPECIAL MESSAGES OR DEDICATIONS

THESE TOUCHES ADD WARMTH AND INDIVIDUALITY, MAKING THE OBITUARY MORE MEMORABLE.

HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY: STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

KNOWING WHERE TO START CAN MAKE THE PROCESS SMOOTHER. FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO WRITE AN OBITUARY THAT FEELS AUTHENTIC AND RESPECTFUL.

STEP 1: GATHER INFORMATION

COLLECT ALL RELEVANT DETAILS BEFORE YOU BEGIN WRITING. THIS MIGHT INVOLVE:

- TALKING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS TO CONFIRM FACTS AND GATHER STORIES
- REVIEWING OLD LETTERS, DIARIES, OR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FOR INSPIRATION
- CHECKING WITH THE FUNERAL HOME FOR ANY GUIDELINES OR TEMPLATES

HAVING EVERYTHING AT HAND HELPS YOU AVOID FREQUENT INTERRUPTIONS AND ENSURES ACCURACY.

STEP 2: CHOOSE A TONE AND STYLE

OBITUARIES CAN RANGE FROM FORMAL AND TRADITIONAL TO INFORMAL AND CONVERSATIONAL. CONSIDER THE PERSONALITY OF THE DECEASED AND THE AUDIENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, A PERSON KNOWN FOR HUMOR MIGHT BE BEST REMEMBERED WITH A LIGHTHEARTED TONE, WHILE OTHERS MAY PREFER A SOLEMN STYLE.

STEP 3: WRITE A DRAFT

START BY ORGANIZING THE OBITUARY INTO SECTIONS—BASIC INFO, BIOGRAPHY, FAMILY, AND SERVICE DETAILS. THEN, WRITE A FIRST DRAFT WITHOUT WORRYING TOO MUCH ABOUT PERFECTION. FOCUS ON GETTING THE CORE MESSAGE DOWN.

STEP 4: EDIT AND REFINE

REVIEW YOUR DRAFT FOR CLARITY, GRAMMAR, AND FLOW. READING IT ALOUD CAN HELP YOU CATCH AWKWARD PHRASING. IT'S ALSO A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE A TRUSTED FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND REVIEW IT, OFFERING FEEDBACK OR CORRECTIONS.

STEP 5: SUBMIT AND PUBLISH

ONCE FINALIZED, SUBMIT THE OBITUARY TO THE CHOSEN NEWSPAPER, ONLINE PLATFORM, OR FUNERAL HOME. BE MINDFUL OF DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION COSTS, AS MANY NEWSPAPERS CHARGE BASED ON LENGTH OR WORD COUNT.

TIPS FOR WRITING A MEANINGFUL OBITUARY

WRITING AN OBITUARY INVOLVES MORE THAN LISTING FACTS—IT'S ABOUT CREATING A NARRATIVE THAT HONORS A LIFE. HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU CRAFT AN OBITUARY THAT RESONATES.

KEEP IT CONCISE BUT COMPLETE

MANY NEWSPAPERS LIMIT OBITUARIES TO A CERTAIN WORD COUNT, USUALLY BETWEEN 200 AND 500 WORDS. FOCUS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT AND MEANINGFUL DETAILS TO KEEP THE OBITUARY CONCISE WHILE STILL CONVEYING THE ESSENCE OF THE PERSON.

USE POSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE

CELEBRATE THE DECEASED'S LIFE BY CHOOSING UPLIFTING WORDS AND AVOIDING OVERLY NEGATIVE OR CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS. THIS IS A MOMENT TO HONOR, NOT CRITICIZE.

INCLUDE PRONOUNS AND AVOID JARGON

USING CLEAR PRONOUNS (HE, SHE, THEY) HELPS READERS FOLLOW THE NARRATIVE EASILY. AVOID JARGON OR SPECIALIZED

TERMS THAT MIGHT CONFUSE THOSE OUTSIDE CERTAIN PROFESSIONS OR COMMUNITIES.

HIGHLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS AND PASSIONS

PEOPLE OFTEN APPRECIATE LEARNING ABOUT WHAT DROVE THE DECEASED—WHETHER IT WAS A LIFELONG CAREER, VOLUNTEER WORK, OR A HOBBY THEY LOVED. INCLUDING THESE GIVES DEPTH TO THE OBITUARY.

BE MINDFUL OF PRIVACY

SOME FAMILIES PREFER TO KEEP CERTAIN DETAILS PRIVATE, SUCH AS CAUSES OF DEATH OR SENSITIVE FAMILY MATTERS. RESPECT THESE WISHES TO MAINTAIN DIGNITY.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN WRITING AN OBITUARY

EVEN WELL-INTENTIONED OBITUARIES CAN HAVE PITFALLS. BEING AWARE OF COMMON ERRORS CAN HELP YOU AVOID THEM.

- **OVERLOADING WITH DETAILS:** INCLUDING TOO MANY NAMES OR MINUTIAE CAN OVERWHELM READERS AND DILUTE THE MAIN MESSAGE.
- **SPELLING ERRORS:** MISSPELLING NAMES OR PLACES CAN BE HURTFUL AND REDUCE CREDIBILITY.
- **INACCURATE INFORMATION:** DOUBLE-CHECK DATES, NAMES, AND FACTS TO ENSURE CORRECTNESS.
- **USING CLICHÉ S EXCESSIVELY** WHILE SOME PHRASES ARE TRADITIONAL, RELYING HEAVILY ON CLICHÉ S CAN MAKE THE OBITUARY FEEL GENERIC.
- **IGNORING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:** EACH PUBLICATION HAS SPECIFIC RULES; FAILING TO FOLLOW THEM CAN DELAY OR PREVENT PUBLICATION.

LEVERAGING ONLINE TOOLS AND TEMPLATES

IF YOU'RE UNSURE HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY FROM SCRATCH, MANY WEBSITES OFFER FREE OBITUARY TEMPLATES AND EXAMPLES THAT CAN SERVE AS HELPFUL STARTING POINTS. THESE RESOURCES OFTEN PROVIDE PROMPTS AND STRUCTURE TO GUIDE YOUR WRITING.

MANY ONLINE OBITUARY PLATFORMS ALSO ALLOW YOU TO CREATE DIGITAL MEMORIALS WHERE FRIENDS AND FAMILY CAN SHARE MEMORIES, PHOTOS, AND CONDOLENCES. THIS CAN COMPLEMENT A PRINTED OBITUARY AND PROVIDE A SPACE FOR ONGOING REMEMBRANCE.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY

WRITING AN OBITUARY IS A DEEPLY PERSONAL AND IMPORTANT TASK. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT ANNOUNCING A DEATH—IT'S ABOUT CELEBRATING A LIFE, ACKNOWLEDGING GRIEF, AND CONNECTING A COMMUNITY. BY APPROACHING IT WITH CARE, ATTENTION TO DETAIL, AND AN OPEN HEART, YOU CAN CREATE A TRIBUTE THAT HONORS YOUR LOVED ONE'S STORY AND OFFERS SOLACE TO THOSE WHO READ IT.

REMEMBER, THERE'S NO PERFECT FORMULA FOR HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY. EACH ONE IS AS UNIQUE AS THE PERSON IT COMMEMORATES. TAKING YOUR TIME, GATHERING INPUT FROM OTHERS, AND FOCUSING ON WHAT MADE YOUR LOVED ONE SPECIAL CAN HELP YOU CRAFT A MEANINGFUL AND MEMORABLE OBITUARY.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN OBITUARY?

AN OBITUARY SERVES TO INFORM THE COMMUNITY ABOUT A PERSON'S DEATH, CELEBRATE THEIR LIFE, AND PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICES.

WHAT KEY INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN OBITUARY?

AN OBITUARY TYPICALLY INCLUDES THE FULL NAME OF THE DECEASED, AGE, DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH, BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS, SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS, FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE INFORMATION, AND ANY SPECIAL MESSAGES OR REQUESTS.

HOW LONG SHOULD AN OBITUARY BE?

OBITUARIES USUALLY RANGE FROM 200 TO 500 WORDS, BUT LENGTH CAN VARY DEPENDING ON PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION TO BE SHARED.

HOW DO I START WRITING AN OBITUARY?

BEGIN BY GATHERING IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE DECEASED'S LIFE, SUCH AS BIRTH AND DEATH DATES, FAMILY DETAILS, CAREER HIGHLIGHTS, HOBBIES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS, THEN ORGANIZE THESE INTO A CLEAR, RESPECTFUL NARRATIVE.

CAN I INCLUDE PERSONAL ANECDOTES OR QUOTES IN AN OBITUARY?

YES, INCLUDING PERSONAL STORIES OR MEANINGFUL QUOTES CAN MAKE THE OBITUARY MORE HEARTFELT AND MEMORABLE, PROVIDING A GLIMPSE INTO THE DECEASED'S PERSONALITY AND IMPACT.

WHERE CAN I PUBLISH AN OBITUARY?

OBITUARIES CAN BE PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, FUNERAL HOME WEBSITES, ONLINE MEMORIAL SITES, AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS DEPENDING ON THE AUDIENCE YOU WANT TO REACH.

IS IT APPROPRIATE TO MENTION CAUSE OF DEATH IN AN OBITUARY?

INCLUDING THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS OPTIONAL AND DEPENDS ON THE FAMILY'S PREFERENCE; SOME CHOOSE TO SHARE IT FOR TRANSPARENCY, WHILE OTHERS PREFER TO KEEP IT PRIVATE.

HOW CAN I WRITE AN OBITUARY THAT HONORS THE DECEASED RESPECTFULLY?

USE A TONE THAT REFLECTS THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONALITY, FOCUS ON POSITIVE MEMORIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS, AVOID NEGATIVE DETAILS, AND RESPECT THE FAMILY'S WISHES THROUGHOUT THE WRITING PROCESS.

ARE THERE ANY LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN WRITING AN OBITUARY?

GENERALLY, OBITUARIES DO NOT HAVE STRICT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, BUT ENSURE THAT ALL INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND RESPECTFUL TO AVOID DEFAMATION OR PRIVACY ISSUES.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO HONORING A LIFE

HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY IS A QUESTION THAT OFTEN ARISES DURING THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE. AN OBITUARY IS MORE THAN JUST A DEATH NOTICE; IT IS A MEANINGFUL TRIBUTE THAT ENCAPSULATES A PERSON'S LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND THE LEGACY THEY LEAVE BEHIND. CRAFTING AN OBITUARY REQUIRES SENSITIVITY, CLARITY, AND A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO ENSURE THAT THE MEMORY OF THE DECEASED IS PRESERVED RESPECTFULLY AND ACCURATELY. THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES A PROFESSIONAL, INVESTIGATIVE LOOK INTO THE PROCESS, OFFERING PRACTICAL GUIDANCE AND INSIGHTS INTO BEST PRACTICES FOR WRITING AN OBITUARY THAT RESONATES WITH READERS AND SERVES ITS PURPOSE EFFECTIVELY.

UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE OF AN OBITUARY

AN OBITUARY FUNCTIONS AS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PERSON'S PASSING, TYPICALLY PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS, ONLINE PLATFORMS, OR FUNERAL HOME WEBSITES. HOWEVER, IT ALSO SERVES SEVERAL DEEPER FUNCTIONS: INFORMING COMMUNITY MEMBERS, INVITING PARTICIPATION IN MEMORIAL SERVICES, AND CELEBRATING THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE STORY. RECOGNIZING THESE ROLES IS CRUCIAL WHEN LEARNING HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY BECAUSE THE TONE AND CONTENT SHOULD BALANCE FACTUAL INFORMATION WITH EMOTIONAL RESONANCE.

OBITUARIES VARY WIDELY IN STYLE AND LENGTH DEPENDING ON CULTURAL NORMS, PUBLICATION GUIDELINES, AND PERSONAL PREFERENCES. SOME MAY BE BRIEF NOTICES OF DEATH, WHILE OTHERS EXTEND TO DETAILED BIOGRAPHIES. ACCORDING TO A 2022 SURVEY BY THE NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, NEARLY 85% OF FAMILIES OPT FOR AN OBITUARY THAT INCLUDES A PERSONAL NARRATIVE ALONGSIDE ESSENTIAL DEATH DETAILS, REFLECTING A GROWING TREND TOWARD PERSONALIZATION.

KEY ELEMENTS TO INCLUDE IN AN OBITUARY

WHEN LEARNING HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY, CERTAIN CORE COMPONENTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED TO ENSURE COMPLETENESS AND CLARITY:

- **BASIC INFORMATION:** FULL NAME, AGE, DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH
- **BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS:** BIRTH DATE, BIRTHPLACE, AND SIGNIFICANT LIFE EVENTS
- **FAMILY INFORMATION:** NAMES OF CLOSE RELATIVES, INCLUDING SPOUSE, CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND SIBLINGS
- **CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS:** NOTABLE OCCUPATIONS, AWARDS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY
- **PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND HOBBIES:** INTERESTS, PASSIONS, AND PERSONALITY TRAITS THAT DEFINED THE INDIVIDUAL
- **SERVICE INFORMATION:** DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICES
- **MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** CHARITIES OR CAUSES WHERE DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN MEMORY

INCLUDING THESE ELEMENTS PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE SNAPSHOT THAT RESPECTS BOTH THE FACTUAL AND EMOTIONAL DIMENSIONS OF THE OBITUARY.

STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO WRITING AN OBITUARY

Writing an obituary can feel overwhelming, especially amid grief. Breaking the process into manageable steps helps maintain focus and ensures the final product meets its intended purpose.

1. GATHER ACCURATE INFORMATION

The first step in how to write an obituary is collecting all necessary facts. This includes confirming spellings of names, dates, and places. Interviewing close family members can provide both essential data and personal anecdotes that enrich the narrative. Accuracy is paramount, as errors can cause distress or legal complications.

2. DETERMINE THE LENGTH AND STYLE

Obituaries can range from 150 to 800 words depending on publication policies and family preferences. Newspapers often have strict word limits and associated costs per word, which can affect the obituary's length. Online platforms tend to be more flexible, allowing for more detailed tributes. Deciding on a formal versus informal tone is also essential and should reflect the personality of the deceased and the audience.

3. WRITE A FACTUAL OPENING

The opening lines typically state the death announcement with essential details: who passed away, when, and where. For example: "John A. Smith, 78, of Springfield, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2024, at his home."

4. CRAFT THE BIOGRAPHICAL NARRATIVE

This section chronicles the life journey, highlighting significant milestones such as education, career, military service, and community involvement. Avoid overly technical jargon or excessive detail that may confuse readers. Instead, focus on elements that showcase the individual's character and impact.

5. MENTION FAMILY AND SURVIVORS

Listing survivors and predeceased relatives helps readers understand family connections. Use clear language to avoid ambiguity, e.g., "He is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Susan; and two grandchildren."

6. INCLUDE SERVICE AND DONATION INFORMATION

Clearly state the logistics of memorial services and any requests regarding donations. This practical information is vital for those wishing to pay respects or contribute in honor of the deceased.

Common Challenges and How to Address Them

Writing an obituary can present certain challenges, especially when balancing brevity and depth or navigating sensitive family dynamics.

BALANCING DETAIL AND BREVITY

ONE COMMON ISSUE IS FITTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRIBUTE WITHIN WORD LIMITS. PRIORITIZE THE MOST MEANINGFUL ASPECTS OF THE PERSON'S LIFE AND AVOID REDUNDANCY. USING CONCISE LANGUAGE AND ACTIVE VERBS CAN ENHANCE CLARITY WITHOUT SACRIFICING WARMTH.

NAVIGATING FAMILY PREFERENCES

FAMILIES MAY HAVE DIFFERING OPINIONS ON TONE, CONTENT, OR EMPHASIS. FACILITATING OPEN COMMUNICATION AND POSSIBLY DRAFTING MULTIPLE VERSIONS CAN HELP REACH A CONSENSUS. PROFESSIONAL OBITUARY WRITERS OR FUNERAL DIRECTORS OFTEN PROVIDE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN MEDIATING THESE DISCUSSIONS.

ENSURING CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

OBITUARIES SHOULD RESPECT CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH DEATH AND MOURNING. RESEARCHING APPROPRIATE CUSTOMS OR CONSULTING COMMUNITY LEADERS CAN PREVENT INADVERTENT DISRESPECT OR MISUNDERSTANDING.

LEVERAGING DIGITAL TOOLS AND PLATFORMS

THE RISE OF DIGITAL MEDIA HAS TRANSFORMED HOW OBITUARIES ARE WRITTEN, SHARED, AND PRESERVED. ONLINE OBITUARY SERVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS OFFER NEW AVENUES FOR COMMEMORATING LIVES, OFTEN ALLOWING FOR MULTIMEDIA ELEMENTS LIKE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS.

BENEFITS OF ONLINE OBITUARIES

PUBLISHING AN OBITUARY ONLINE INCREASES ACCESSIBILITY AND ENABLES INTERACTIVE ENGAGEMENT THROUGH COMMENTS AND CONDOLENCES. IT ALSO PROVIDES A LASTING DIGITAL MEMORIAL THAT FAMILIES AND FRIENDS CAN REVISIT.

SEO CONSIDERATIONS FOR ONLINE OBITUARIES

FOR THOSE POSTING OBITUARIES ON WEBSITES, UNDERSTANDING HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY WITH SEO IN MIND CAN ENHANCE VISIBILITY. INCLUDING THE FULL NAME, DATES, LOCATIONS, AND RELEVANT KEYWORDS NATURALLY WITHIN THE TEXT HELPS SEARCH ENGINES INDEX THE PAGE EFFECTIVELY. AVOID KEYWORD STUFFING, BUT ENSURE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION APPEARS PROMINENTLY.

PRIVACY AND MODERATION

WHILE ONLINE OBITUARIES INVITE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, THEY ALSO REQUIRE MONITORING TO PREVENT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT. MANY PLATFORMS OFFER MODERATION TOOLS TO BALANCE OPENNESS WITH RESPECT.

EXAMPLES AND TEMPLATES: FINDING INSPIRATION

EXPLORING PROFESSIONAL OBITUARY EXAMPLES CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE TEMPLATES AND STYLISTIC CUES. MANY FUNERAL

HOMES AND NEWSPAPERS PUBLISH SAMPLE OBITUARIES THAT ILLUSTRATE DIFFERENT FORMATS AND TONES. USING THESE AS REFERENCES CAN GUIDE WRITERS IN STRUCTURING THEIR OWN NARRATIVES WHILE MAINTAINING ORIGINALITY.

SOME WIDELY RECOMMENDED TEMPLATES INCLUDE:

1. BASIC ANNOUNCEMENT: FOCUSED ON DEATH NOTICE AND SERVICE DETAILS.
2. BIOGRAPHICAL TRIBUTE: INCORPORATES LIFE STORY AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.
3. POETIC OR THEMATIC: USES LITERARY DEVICES OR THEMES TO CELEBRATE THE DECEASED UNIQUELY.

CHOOSING A TEMPLATE ALIGNED WITH THE DECEASED'S PERSONALITY AND FAMILY PREFERENCES HELPS ENSURE THE OBITUARY FEELS AUTHENTIC RATHER THAN FORMULAIC.

THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

WRITING AN OBITUARY IS INHERENTLY EMOTIONAL, BLENDING GRIEF WITH A DESIRE FOR CELEBRATION. APPROACHING THE TASK PROFESSIONALLY REQUIRES SENSITIVITY TO TONE AND CONTENT TO AVOID UNINTENTIONALLY CAUSING DISTRESS. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDE TRUTHFUL REPRESENTATION, RESPECT FOR PRIVACY, AND AVOIDING EXAGGERATION OR OMISSION OF SIGNIFICANT FACTS.

PROFESSIONAL WRITERS OFTEN RECOMMEND REVIEWING THE OBITUARY WITH TRUSTED FAMILY MEMBERS BEFORE PUBLICATION TO CONFIRM ACCURACY AND APPROPRIATENESS.

MASTERING HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY INVOLVES BALANCING FACTUAL REPORTING WITH HEARTFELT TRIBUTE. THROUGH CAREFUL RESEARCH, THOUGHTFUL COMPOSITION, AND SENSITIVITY TO AUDIENCE AND CONTEXT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO CREATE AN OBITUARY THAT HONORS THE DECEASED'S MEMORY WHILE PROVIDING COMFORT AND INFORMATION TO THOSE LEFT BEHIND. WHETHER PUBLISHED IN PRINT OR ONLINE, A WELL-CRAFTED OBITUARY STANDS AS A LASTING TESTAMENT TO A LIFE LIVED.

[How To Write An Obituary](#)

how to write an obituary: **How to Write an Obituary** Christina Newberry, 2008

how to write an obituary: *How to Write Your Personal or Family History* Katie Wiebe, 2017-02-07 This is a practical—and encouraging—how-to book from a long-time teacher of personal and family history writing. Katie Funk Wiebe helps beginning memoir writers get started collecting the stories of their lives. She gives hints for recalling distant memories and tracking down family heirlooms. This is a serious but accessible resource for undertaking your personal or family history writing. In these pages, you'll find: Tips on writing, Exercises to prod the memory, And advice on looking at the broad scope of a well-lived life. As Wiebe writes, You've been living 24 hours every day, making decisions, objecting to certain ideas, endorsing others, and interacting with family and coworkers, the author writes. I plan to convince you that if you took time to reflect, you'd find lots of meaningful stuff going on.

how to write an obituary: [Funeral Planning Basics](#) Enodare, 2011 This comprehensive funeral planning book will take you step-by-step through the process of planning a funeral. It will introduce you to issues such as organ donations, purchasing caskets, cremation, burial, purchasing grave plots, organization of funeral services, the legal and financial issues relating to funerals, the cost of

pre-arranging a funeral, how to save money on funerals, how to finance funerals and much more.--Publisher's description.

how to write an obituary: *Obituary Writing* Dianne Michelle, 2016-11-16 Obituary Writing For Beginners! Are You Ready To Learn How To Write the Perfect Obituary? If So You've Come To The Right Place... Here's A Preview Of What This Obituary Writing Book Contains... What Actually Is An Obituary? Brief History Of Obituary Writing Terms You Need To Remember Essential Elements In Obituary Writing Informative Obituary Writing & Preparation Opinionative Obituary Writing & Preparation How Not To Write an Obituary (Don't Make These Common Mistakes!) Passages from Notable Eulogies To Examine & Take Inspiration From And Much, Much More!

how to write an obituary: Write of Passing Janie Owens, 2024-07-29 Holly Donnelly writes obituaries from her apartment in Daytona Beach, Florida. She loves her job even though it comes with one oddity: as she writes the obituaries, each spirit pays a visit, manifesting in unique ways. The ghosts succeed in creating humorous conditions, annoying pranks and scaring Holly's boyfriends. But one spirit in particular has another reason to visit, and Holly is on a mission to solve the mystery of who the ghost is and why she is visiting this apartment sixty-six years after her death. Whether being a friend to a young woman in an abusive relationship, enduring her drama queen mother's antics, or dealing with her own commitment issues, Holly's precious Chihuahua is an ever-present comforter and moral support. The perfect escape to humor, excitement and ghostly encounters, *WRITE OF PASSING* is the third book in Janie Owens' Daytona Beach series of cozy mysteries.

how to write an obituary: *The World of Obituaries* Mushira Eid, 2002 This unusual book, the world of obituaries looks at obituaries as a rich source of information on cultural representation of gender. It examines obituaries published from 1938 to 1998 in three cultures - Egypt, Iran, and the United States - to analysis how women and men are represented in their death notices and how these representations have change over time. It also shows how obituaries, viewed as texts, at times converge within but often diverge from expected norms. Mushira Eid has applied quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques to 4,400 obituaries, using names, titles, and occupations as linguistic symbols of identity. Data were collected for a month at ten-year intervals to measure change. From them, she demonstrates differences within the world of obituaries, relates this world to the world at large, and constructs a model based on this comparison. Resulting facts are placed within the context of women's movements in the three cultures and other sociocultural and political events that influenced the perception of gender roles. *The World of Obituaries* offers a unique synthesis of information on women and public space in three cultures. It opens a new window on gender

how to write an obituary: *MediaWriting* W. Richard Whitaker, Ronald D. Smith, Janet E. Ramsey, 2013-03-01 *MediaWriting* is an introductory, hands-on textbook for students preparing to write in the current multimedia environment. Rather than just talk about the differences among the styles of print, broadcast, and public relations, *MediaWriting* synthesizes and integrates them, while weaving in basic principles of Internet writing and social media reporting. Complete with real-world examples, practical writing exercises, and tips and information for entering into the profession, *MediaWriting* continues to give students the tools they need to become a successful media writer. The new edition has been extensively rewritten to reflect the dynamic nature of the profession, paying significant attention to how the Internet and social media have become essential communication tools for print and broadcast journalists, and public relations professionals. Further updates and features include: Increased attention to computer-assisted reporting, the preparation of online copy, and social media applications Two new chapters on lead writing and new new media A separate chapter focused solely on ethics Explanatory how to boxes that help students understand and retain main themes Illustrative It Happened to Me vignettes from the authors' professional experiences Discussion questions and exercises at the end of every chapter Suggested readings that highlight biographies, books, and websites that expand the scope and definition of professionalism In addition to new multimedia elements, the fourth edition's companion website features enhanced

resources for both students and instructors, including chapter overviews, writing tips, a test bank, sample critiques, and a sample syllabus.

how to write an obituary: *The Obituary Writer* Porter Shreve, 2000 In 1989, twenty-two-year-old Gordie Hatch takes a job as an obituary writer for the St. Louis Independent, but an encounter with young widow Alice Whiting leads him on an obsessive quest in search of the truth behind the Whiting family.

how to write an obituary: *The Obituary Writer: A Novel* Ann Hood, 2013-03-04 A sophisticated and suspenseful novel about the poignant lives of two women living in different eras. On the day John F. Kennedy is inaugurated, Claire, an uncompromising young wife and mother obsessed with the glamour of Jackie O, struggles over the decision of whether to stay in a loveless marriage or follow the man she loves and whose baby she may be carrying. Decades earlier, in 1919, Vivien Lowe, an obituary writer, is searching for her lover who disappeared in the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. By telling the stories of the dead, Vivien not only helps others cope with their grief but also begins to understand the devastation of her own terrible loss. The surprising connection between Claire and Vivien will change the life of one of them in unexpected and extraordinary ways. Part literary mystery and part love story, *The Obituary Writer* examines expectations of marriage and love, the roles of wives and mothers, and the emotions of grief, regret, and hope.

how to write an obituary: *The Work of Life Writing* G. Thomas Couser, 2021-04-13 Life writing, in its various forms, does work that other forms of expression do not; it bears on the world in a way distinct from imaginative genres like fiction, drama, and poetry; it acts in and on history in significant ways. Memoirs of illness and disability often seek to depathologize the conditions that they recount. Memoirs of parents by their children extend or alter relations forged initially face to face in the home. At a time when memoir and other forms of life writing are being produced and consumed in unprecedented numbers, this book reminds readers that memoir is not mainly a literary genre or mere entertainment. Similarly, letters are not merely epiphenomena of our real lives. Correspondence does not just serve to communicate; it enacts and sustains human relationships. Memoir matters, and there's life in letters. All life writing arises of our daily lives and has distinctive impacts on them and the culture in which we live.

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quality newspapers have been described as 'oases of calm in a world gone mad', 'a lovely part of the paper to linger in', and 'writing that matters'. Entertaining, inspiring and informative, they serve as a legitimate instrument of history, and have enjoyed an extraordinary revival in popularity over the past twenty years. Life After Death investigates-and celebrates-the development of the obituary form in the British, American, and Australian press. Author Nigel Starck tracks down the earliest exercise in obituary publication (in 1622), then traces the evolution of the form over four centuries, from times when the obituary was the reserve of royalty and privilege to its contemporary egalitarian mode. Along the way Dr Starck delves into a multitude of lives, from the heroic to the comic, the saintly to the downright villainous, the exemplary to the eccentric. Meet, in the posthumous cast list, Major Digby Tatham-Warter, of Britain's Parachute Regiment, who carried an umbrella into battle just in case it rained; the absent-minded Australian barrister Pat Lanigan, who drove from Canberra to Sydney and then flew back, leaving his car behind; and the eccentric American publisher Eddie Clontz, whose newspaper reported (exclusively, of course) that 'tiny terrorists' were disguising themselves as garden gnomes. Life After Death also incorporates a connoisseur's collection of ten obituaries reprinted in full: the subjects include Helen Keller, Diana Mosley, Quentin Crisp, George Wallace, and Rosa Parks. Without doubt, Life After Death is a book that will outlive its author-as an enduring celebration of journalism's dying art. 'Canon Smith expired after suffering an unfortunate disagreement with his bishop.'-The Sydney Morning Herald, 1882 'Minnesota Fats died at his home in Nashville. He was eighty-two, or perhaps ninety-five.'-The New York Times, 1996

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