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Public Genre Analysis

A eulogy is a piece of writing that for the most part, we have all been exposed to. A eulogy typically appears as a memorable speech honoring a deceased individual. It can be printed in the funeral home pamphlets given at the door, and also given verbally by a loved one or close friend during the funeral procession. Though eulogies can represent a dark time in our lives, death, one must know how to properly write a respectful eulogy if the unfortunate opportunity ever arises.

According to Webster’s dictionary, a eulogy is defined as a commendatory oration or writing especially in honor of one deceased. The eulogy can prove to be one of the toughest writings one might ever encounter. The eulogy can be more challenging than other writings for one reason in particular, the audience. Since the eulogy is in honor of a deceased person, the presentation is usually given to a grieving audience. The obligation to honor the deceased in a respectful way and yet try to lift the spirits of the grieving can present a difficult task. Also the speaker is most often grieving as well, adding to the challenge. Knowing a few key tips in writing a eulogy can better help one prepare.

To start writing a eulogy, one must know exactly what they would like to include. In order to comprise the speech with accurate information, doing research is somewhat required. Typically a eulogy can be broken down into a basic outline. The outline may be in different order, but usually includes the following: relevance of speaker, relevance of audience, brief synopsis of deceased individuals’ life, those left behind, and inspirational closing.

The relevance to speaker and to the audience is the basis of all kinds of writing. It is necessary if you are writing a eulogy, to include yourself personally to the deceased individual. For instance, if you are the life-long friend of John Doe who passes, it would be appropriate to share the friendship the two of you had in order to state the relevance of why you can fully honor the individual. Throughout writing a eulogy it is beneficial if you put yourself in the grieving loved ones shoes. They would not like for someone that did not know their loved one, or had bad blood with the loved one, to be delivering the eulogy, the memorable speech honoring their loved one. For example, in a sample eulogy from [www.eulogyspeeches.net](http://www.eulogyspeeches.net), it states, “Michael was a great friend; he was the kind of friend that stands by you when you need somebody to be there. He once saved my life.” This illustrates the relevance of the speaker to the audience.

Another important aspect of the eulogy, quite possibly the most important, is the brief synopsis of the individuals’ life. It is important that when summarizing the life, to remain tasteful and respectful. Even if the individual struggled with addictions, or any other problems in their life, it is important to only include the positive, A eulogy is not the place for negative thoughts. Also, often included in this part of the eulogy, one might share the persons’ favorite song, favorite quote, or even present a slideshow of photos. In whatever way you choose to summarize the individuals’ life, just remember to remain respectful and make it a memorable honor of the life they lived. We can see from a sample eulogy from [www.eulogyspeeches.net](http://www.eulogyspeeches.net) , the proper way to do this. In one of the examples, the author states, “She was a teacher, and she embraced her profession even in her [personal relationship](http://www.eulogyspeech.net/sample-eulogy/Mother-Eulogy-Sample.shtml) with all her [children](http://www.eulogyspeech.net/sample-eulogy/Mother-Eulogy-Sample.shtml). She did not only teach us about school, but most importantly, she taught us about life.”

Including those who were left behind is one of the best ways to honor the family who is grieving. Typically a eulogy makes a point to recognize the surviving family members of the deceased individual. For example, a eulogy might say, “John Doe is survived by Susie Q and Bobby G.” The reason the surviving members are mentioned could be for an array of reasons. One could speculate that this helps comfort the family and makes them feel more involved with their loved one. On a personal note, when one of my loved ones have passed away, seeing my name written or mentioned in the eulogy gave me a sense of bond with that family member. It is just something about the connection of your loved one and yourself that makes that important. On another note there could be other hidden reasons for the recognition of the surviving loved ones. For instance, a brief summary of the eulogy is usually included in a local newspaper in what is called an “obituary”. When the survivors are included here, this could possibly let someone know that their friend had a relative pass away. Otherwise someone might not know their friends’ grandfather or someone had passed away. Therefore this is also an effective way of letting the general public know when a relative of someone they know has deceased.

Though many eulogies might vary, they are all similar in the ending. The ending should be written with the intention to uplift the spirits and end on a good note. It is very important to beloved family members to close in a very memorable way and only have the best memories. No one wishes for their last memory to be of the actual death. Therefore a clever ending, capturing the good times of the deceased individual is important to the emotional well being of those who grieve. Take for instance the closing in Ted Kennedy’s eulogy delivered by President Obama, it stated “Ted Kennedy has gone home now, guided by his faith and by the light of those that he has loved and lost. At last he is with them once more, leaving those of us who grieve his passing with the memories he gave, the good that he did, the dream he kept alive, and a single, enduring image – the image of a man on a boat; white mane tousled; smiling broadly as he sails into the wind, ready for whatever storms may come, carrying on toward some new and wondrous place just beyond the horizon. May God Bless Ted Kennedy, and may he rest in eternal peace.”

It is easy to see that a eulogy is a sensitive piece of writing and one must write with the deepest respect and strategy. The eulogy can be broken down in to several essential parts and analyzed depending on the situation. Though no one ever wishes to be put in the situation in which a eulogy is necessary, it is inevitable. Life unfortunately must end in death, so therefore we must know how to handle it. Those who deliver and write eulogies deserve the utmost respect, for it is one of the most delicate literatures that can be produced.