

# Eulogy

- Pick a fictional character. The character does not need to be 'dead'.
- Compose a eulogy for this character. Must be a minimum of 2 minutes long.
- Have your character approved by me by the end of class Tomorrow.
- Speeches will be presented Thursday, 11/7.
- A eulogy may contain:
  - a condensed life history of the person who has died
  - details about family, friends, work/career, interests, and achievements
  - favorite memories of the deceased
  - favorite poems, songs, quotes, or religious writings
- The most touching and meaningful eulogies are written from the heart. A eulogy does not have to be perfect. Whatever you write and deliver will be appreciated by the people in attendance.

## What is a Eulogy?

**Eulogy** – a speech or writing prepared by someone close to a deceased person that honors the deceased person and his/her life.

## How to Write a Eulogy

**1. Introduce yourself in a few words.** Perhaps there are many attendees who will not know your relation to the deceased.

E.g. For anybody who doesn't know me, I'm ... and I want to say a few words in memory of ... Et cetera.

**2. Personalize your eulogy.** Express your personal feelings and thoughts about moments and activities at which you feel close to your beloved one. Photos and videos may help.

E.g. I'll miss the fishing trips we made.

E.g. I'll miss the inspiring after dinner talks we had.

**3. Share happy memories.** Mix in a tasteful humorous memory.

E.g. Cite a characteristic expression or an activity that everyone recognize.

**4. Tell anecdotes, real life experiences that capture her or his personality.** Think about holiday adventures, work anecdotes, etc.

E.g. Illustrate that she or he was a great story teller by paraphrasing how she or he tells a story.

**5. Describe the deceased person's character.** Give examples. Highlight the good sides and forget embarrassing moments.

E.g. Share the memory of the kindness to everyone he/she met.

E.g. Describe how she or he met difficult challenges with dignity.

**6. Express the values that were important to the deceased.** Display humorous habits or a manner of living. Never tell about bad habits.

E.g. Explain how she or he achieved her or his goals in life.

**7. Refer to family ties - wife, husband, children and other mourning relatives.**

**8. Highlight memorable accomplishments, special knowledge, skills or capabilities.**

**9. Mention travel, if it is relevant.** Are there places the person who died loved to travel to or visited frequently?

E.g. Share the content of the postcards you received, the stories of discoveries abroad.