

Eulogy

What is a eulogy?

A eulogy is a thoughtfully-crafted speech given at a funeral or memorial service to commemorate the life of a person who has died. It can be delivered by a family member, close friend, priest, Minister, celebrant or other person important to the deceased.

Voice

Eulogies blend first person (I, me, my, we, us, our) and third person (he, she, him, her, his, her, they, them, their) throughout the text. First person is used to establish the speaker's relationship with the person who has died and to possibly explain anecdotes. Third person is used where the speaker is providing a personal history of the deceased or an outline of their life.

Language & Grammar

- Language choice is most commonly a blend of formal and informal language depending on the person and the content of the eulogy. If the speaker's purpose is to uplift the audience or highlight an amusing anecdote, then the language could be informal; if the speaker is identifying the person's achievements then the language used would most likely be formal.
- If the eulogy is for a public figure, such as a politician, then the language would be very formal throughout the text.
- Mainly uses past tense.
- It is acceptable to use contractions (didn't, it's, that's, we'll).
- Sentence fragments (eg. That's because he was such...) can be used as these help to establish the relationship between the speaker and the deceased.

Structure and Organisation

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a salutation to begin• Establishes the speaker's relationship with the deceased• Gives a general statement about the person (eg. A quiet and humble person...)• Could begin with an anecdote, if appropriate
Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides an overview of the person's life, starting with their birth• Emphasises important parts of their life in paragraphs, such as childhood, teenage years, career, family, interests• Is chronological and includes dates, locations and specific facts
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sums up the most important aspect of the person. (eg. Our Grandfather was always there for us...)• Finishes with a strong statement, leaving the audience with a strong impression or something memorable (eg. Goodbye Grandma, we'll miss you)

Exemplar Years 7 – 9

Exemplar Years 10 – 12