



Here are some ideas to get you started.

- ***Be brave.*** The thought of writing a speech and presenting it in public makes many people anxious. Set aside your fears for now. You can do this. Focus on the person who died and the gift you will be giving to all who knew and loved him or her.
- ***Think.*** Before you start writing, go for a long walk or drive and think about the life of the person who died. This will help you collect your thoughts and focus on writing the eulogy.
- ***Brainstorm.*** Spend half an hour (longer if you want) writing down all the thoughts, ideas and memories that come to you.
- ***Ask others to share memories.*** A good way to include others in the ceremony is to ask them to share thoughts and memories. These can be then incorporated into the eulogy.
- ***Look at photos.*** Flipping through photo albums may remind you of important qualities and memories of the person who died.
- ***Write a draft.*** Once you've brainstormed and collected memories, it's time to write the first draft. Go somewhere quiet and write it all in one sitting, start to finish. Don't worry about getting it perfect for now—just get it down on paper.

- ***Let it sit.*** If time allows, let your eulogy draft sit for a few hours or a day before revising.
- ***Get a second opinion.*** Have someone else, preferably someone who was close to the person who died - read over your draft at this point. This person can make revision suggestions and help you avoid inadvertently saying something that might offend others.
- ***Polish.*** Read over your first draft. Look for awkward phrases or stiff wording. Improve the transitions from paragraph to paragraph or thought to thought. Find adjectives and verbs that really capture the essence of the person who died.
- ***Present your eulogy with love.*** Now you need to present your eulogy. You may feel nervous, but if you can keep your focus on the person who died instead of your own fears, you'll loosen up. If you break down as you're talking, that's OK. Everyone will understand. Just stop for a few seconds, collect yourself and continue.
- ***Speak up.*** It's very important that you speak clearly and loudly so that everyone can hear you.



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For families who prefer a highly personalised Funeral Service.



Paul Vincent Meagher JP, CMC
Funeral Celebrant



The National Association of Professional Celebrants

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you and your family, Firstly my sincere condolences if you are in the process of making funeral arrangements for a loved one.

I have been a celebrant for over 20 years and would feel honoured to assist you in arranging a personalised funeral service that pays tribute and honours the life of the deceased.

As a Funeral celebrant I can help you to create a meaningful, memorable, fitting end of life tribute, whether your loved one was religious, secular, spiritual or interfaith or if they wish to simply express themselves in a manner of their own choosing.

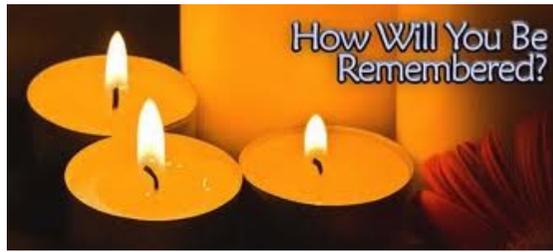
By offering a dignified, personalised service each ceremony reflects the needs, beliefs and values of the deceased and his/her family.

Above all, as your celebrant I will endeavour to honour the death and celebrate the life of your loved one.

In collaboration with the family I will carefully craft a eulogy and create a personalised ceremony with music, quotes, readings, poems, unique Symbols and rituals. Then, with compassion, sincerity and great care, officiate at the ceremony.



“What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.” Helen Keller



What is central in the ceremony are the words which are said, the music that is played, the eulogy which is presented, and the ritual and symbolism which is observed.

*“We are so thankful to Paul. The funeral ceremony he conducted for our dad truly celebrated his life, our family history and paid tribute to his military service.”
- sisters Louise and Rebecca*

What is the Eulogy?

Also called the remembrance, the eulogy is the speech or presentation during the funeral ceremony that talks about the life and character of the person who died. The eulogy acknowledges the unique life of this person and affirms the significance of that life for all who shared in it.

What should be said during the eulogy?

We have already emphasized that the best eulogies are personalized. They include memories and anecdotes of the person’s life. They also try to capture personality.

If the person who died was kind, the eulogy would give examples of this kindness. If the person who died had a good sense of humor, the eulogy might relate funny stories or expressions.

The eulogy does not have to cover every aspect of the person’s life, however. In fact, often the best eulogies are those that focus on the eulogy-giver’s personal thoughts and memories.

Do try to acknowledge those who were closest to the person who died as well as important achievements in the person’s life, but don’t feel obligated to create an exhaustive biography.

Also keep in mind that the word eulogy comes from the Greek eulogia, meaning praise or blessing.

This is the time to give thanks for a person’s life and to honor his or her memory. This is not the time to bring up painful or difficult memories but to emphasize the good we can find in all people.

Some tips for eulogy-givers

Writing and delivering a eulogy is a loving, important gesture that merits your time and attention.

Though the task may seem daunting right now, you’ll find that once you start jotting down ideas, your eulogy will come together naturally.

Afterwards, many who attend the funeral will thank you for your contribution, and your eulogy will be cherished always by the family and friends of the person who died.

