

Obituary Writing Essentials

Tips & Techniques

Name & Dates

Include the full legal name of the deceased, incorporating any maiden names or nicknames they were known by. Also, provide the date of birth and the date of passing, both in full (e.g., "January 1, 1950 – June 15, 2023").

Early Life & Career

Overview of the deceased's early years, including key childhood experiences that shaped their life. Mention academic achievements, any degrees earned, then transition into their professional life by detailing the career path they followed and major accomplishments.

Personal Life

Detail the deceased's personal relationships, including their marriage, family, and close friendships. Highlight hobbies, interests, and describe their character and personality, capturing the traits that made them unique. Include their involvement in the community, such as charitable work, memberships in organizations, and contributions to social causes.

Surviving Family Members

List the immediate family members who are still living, including their relationship to the deceased. You may also mention extended family members, such as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and close friends considered part of the family.

Funeral Arrangements

Provide the details of the funeral services, including the date, time, and location. If there are multiple services list each one separately with the relevant information. Mention any specific requests or instructions, such as dress code or whether the service is private or open to the public. Additionally, include information on where memorial donations can be made, if applicable.