

How to write a 5-minute Remembrance/eulogy

Crafting a 5-minute eulogy is a beautiful way to honor a loved one's life, focusing on what truly matters in a concise manner. Here's how to structure it effectively:

1. Opening with Heart

Begin with a brief introduction of yourself and your relationship to the deceased. This sets the stage for your words and connects you with the audience. Offer a warm, heartfelt opening that captures the essence of the person you're remembering. For example, "I'm [Your Name], [Relationship to Deceased], and today, I want to share a glimpse of the incredible life [Name] led."

2. Highlight Key Memories - Include Personal Anecdotes

Focus on 2-3 significant stories or qualities that embody the spirit of your loved one. These can be joyful, impactful, or even humorous moments that highlight their character and values. For instance, you might share a story that showcases their generosity or sense of humor. These anecdotes should be vivid and relatable, painting a picture of who they were.

3. Reflect on Their Impact

Discuss the legacy they leave behind—how they touched lives, influenced others, or made the world a better place. This could include their roles as a parent, friend, or community member. Emphasize the positive impact they had on others, which provides comfort and inspiration to the audience.

4. Conclude with Gratitude

Wrap up your eulogy with a note of gratitude for having known them and the lessons they imparted. This part can be emotive and hopeful, leaving the audience with a sense of peace and appreciation. Consider ending with a meaningful quote or a personal farewell. Remember, brevity doesn't mean less impact. Every word in your eulogy holds weight and meaning.

5. Practice and Edit

Once written, read the remembrance aloud to ensure it flows well and captures the essence of your loved one. Edit for clarity and conciseness and aim for a length that feels comfortable – typically 10 minutes if only one is speaking ;4-5 minutes if 2 are speaking. Practicing will also help you manage emotions when delivering it.

6. Deliver with Poise

On the day, speak slowly and clearly. It's okay to show emotion and remember that everyone understands the difficulty of the moment. If needed, have a backup person ready to assist or take over.

Actionable Tips:

- Limit each section to about 1-2 minutes to stay within the 5-minute mark.
- Use a timer during practice to ensure your speech is the right length.
- Keep language simple and heartfelt authenticity resonates strongly.