



DEWHIRST FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES
"Before, During & After a Loss"

Obituary Writing Tips

The following headings are meant as a general guide. Make sure that you have considered everything that is usually is covered, then select what you would like to include, and also decide what order you would like to use:

For many, writing an obituary is a daunting task! Whether you find yourself writing your own unique story, or writing for a loved one, the goal remains the same... How do I capture this person's life and spirit

Name / Announcement:

- *Full name of the deceased (First, M.I., Last) and any nicknames, if significant.*
- *Age*
- *Residence (city, state)*
- *Day and date of death (Thursday, March 13, 2014)*
- *Place of death & cause (if appropriate)*



Life:

- *Date of Birth (this can go in the body of the text, or in the header. ex. "Born on June 19, 1932... v.s. June 19, 1932- March 13, 2014)*
- *Place of birth, name(s) of parent(s)*
- *Childhood: hobbies, schools, friends etc.*
- *Marriage(s): dates of, place, length*
- *Education: highschool, college, graduate work and other designations, awards & recognitions.*
- *Employment: where, how long, significant promotions, union activities, colleagues, field etc.*
- *Places of residence*
- *Hobbies, sports, interests, activities and other enjoyments*
- *Charitable, religious, fraternal, political and other affiliations; positions held etc.*
- *Achievements (unrelated to above)*
- *Disappointments (if appropriate)*
- *Unique attributes, humor, significant personality traits, other stories etc.*

Family:

- *"Survived by" (include state or state and city of residence):*

Spouse, children (in order of birth - Include their spouses and partners), partner, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren (depending on age and length can simply supply a number v.s. individual names), siblings (in order of age), nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, significant friends, pets (if appropriate)

- *"Predeceased by" - List all who are applicable*

Service:

Services can include ANY type of funeral, memorial service, celebration of life etc.

- *Day, date, time, place (with address)*
- *Visitation information (wake) and time (include date even if it is the same as the service)*
- *Burial information or place of interment (list if all are welcome v.s. private)*
- *Reception information (this can also be announced at the service to help control numbers)*
- *Name and address of funeral home in charge of arrangements*
- *Where to submit condolences (typically on funeral home website. We do **not** encourage including a personal address in a public obituary)*

**Additional:**

- Memorial contributions or donations (list the name and address of the facility or charity)
- Any memorial funds established in the deceased's name
- Thank you to any significant groups (nursing home or hospice staff etc)
- Quotation or poem that is significant

Be sure you know how much any newspaper or online publication charges for obituaries in order to control costs.

To help the families we serve, Dewhirst Family Funeral Homes provide free online obituary hosting to every family we serve. This includes postings on our website, Facebook page, and Twitter feed. All obituaries posted through our online network can be edited and removed at any time by the informant. All condolences are screened before submission to control spam.

