

Introduction

- Introduce yourself and your relationship to the decedent
- Introduce the decedent:
 - Birth date
 - Birth place
 - Parents
 - Siblings
 - Date of death
- Consider opening with a Bible verse or special quote that illustrates who your loved one was

Childhood, school, adventures, family

- Describe their childhood
- Graduation
- Moving from home
- Interests, adventures, life events
- Falling in love, marriage
- Starting a family

Occupation, achievements, relationships

- Describe what they did for a living
- Noteworthy achievements
- Hobbies, beliefs, special relationships
- How did they help others?
- What were they most proud of?

Your memories, other stories

- Share your memories of them - write them out in chronological order
- Retell the famous (or infamous!) stories
- Share small details that no one ever knew before
- Consider asking other family members or friends for stories you can include

Say thanks

- Thank those in their community who have helped in their final moments and/or with the funeral arrangements
- This might be caretakers, funeral directors, pastors/priests, employers, coworkers, friends, family, others

Say goodbye

- Close by saying goodbye to your loved one
- Consider including a favorite or meaningful quote, poem, or verse