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How to Write an Outstanding Necrologue

A necrologue, or an obituary, is an article that provides readers with information about the recent death of a person. The task to write a necrologue has to be taken with responsibility and seriousness, because the death of an individual means there is a grieving family that wants closure and healing. Even more, a writer should understand that being able to fit a life of a person into a small news note is rather hard. As one can see, the specific nature of a necrologue requires its author to be knowledgeable of tips that can be used in order to write an outstanding one.

First of all, there is a list of basic features that have to be included in order to prepare a decent necrologue. The list is brief but logical, and includes an announcement of death, a biographical sketch, a list of family members, service times, special messages, and photographs ("How To Write An Obituary"). The structure of a necrologue is very specific and differs from other types of articles that might be featured in a newspaper.

The first element, an announcement of death, has to include basic information about the departed, such as the name, age, place of living, as well as the time and place of death. Although the introduction seems to be dry, especially considering the elements that have to be included, it is possible to bring some emotion into it by avoiding simple words like "died" ("How To Write

An Obituary"). As for the biographical sketch, a writer should remember that this part of a necrologue has to be very brief and it should include the most important life events that are worth attention and recognition ("How To Write An Obituary"). The reason behind a need for a sketch to be short is simple: a long list may not be of any interest for someone outside of the family. The third step, a list of family members, should include the closest ones, both preceded and proceeded ("How To Write An Obituary"). It is required to understand that giving particular attention to the list of family members is crucial, as a writer should not miss someone important.

The next element is service times, and it should include the precise time, date, and place of both the service and burial. As for the special message element, a writer can get creative and use a line from a poem or a short prayer. Although this element is purely optional, it could introduce more emotion into the necrologue. The final element, a photo, should be recent because some friends might not recognize the deceased one if the author decides to use a photo that is decades old ("How To Write An Obituary").

Last but not least, there are other tips that can polish a decent necrologue into an outstanding one. To be more specific on the matter, there are two elements that can do the trick: emotion and humor (Burmeister). When speaking of emotion, the author can employ a choice of words in crucial elements of a necrologue, such as the biographical sketch or a list of family members, in order to emphasize the importance of some events and the significance of the family. As for humor, this tool should be considered twice in order to identify where it is appropriate to add this kind of flavor to the text (Burmeister). However, including humor in the previously mentioned two elements may become a feature that will catch the attention of a wide audience.

Works Cited

Burmeister, Danielle. "How To Write An Obituary That Is Creative And Memorable".

Homesteaders Life Company, 2015, <https://www.homesteaderslife.com/blog/how-to-write-an-obituary-that-is-creative-and-memorable>. Accessed 31 July 2018.

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