



TEMPLE ISRAEL
MINNEAPOLIS

Death in Three Acts

Act II - Final Words: Write Your Legacy

Mimi Holmes and Rabbi Zimmerman



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**Act II - Final Words: Write Your Legacy
with Mimi Holmes and Rabbi Zimmerman**

Template for Writing an Obituary

<https://www.jewishfuneralsusa.com/writing-an-obituary/>

Writing an obituary is a difficult and emotional task. First, you will need to gather information from family and friends of the deceased about their childhood, education, career, and hobbies and interests. As well, speak to the funeral home to receive any important information on the date, time, and location of any funeral service, or other funeral-related events. Using the template will help make the process easier and will ensure you write a properly structured obituary.

Instructions: Replace all items in CAPITALS below with the appropriate information.

[GIVEN NAME] [MIDDLE NAME (AND NICKNAME)]

[SURNAME], [AGE], of [CITY], [STATE], passed away on [DATE OF DEATH] in [LOCATION OF DEATH].

[NAME] was born in [LOCATION OF BIRTH] to [PARENT'S NAMES] on [DATE OF BIRTH]. He/she went to high school at [SCHOOL NAME] and graduated in [YEAR]. He/she went on to earn a degree/certificate in [DEGREE TYPE] from [SCHOOL NAME]. He/she worked as a [JOB TYPE] for [COMPANY] for [NUMBER OF YEARS]. He/she enjoyed [ACTIVITIES/HOBBIES]. He/she received [AWARDS/HONORS] and was involved in [CHARITIES/ORGANIZATIONS].

[NAME] is survived by his/her [RELATION], [NAME] of [CITY]. (List all survivors: spouse children, siblings, parents, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews). He/she is preceded in death by his/her [RELATION], [NAME]. (List predeceased: spouse, parents, children and siblings.)

Funeral service will be held at [LOCATION] on [DATE] at [TIME] with Rabbi [NAME] of [SYNAGOGUE] officiating. Burial will follow at [CEMETERY NAME], [CEMETERY LOCATION]. Shiva will be held at [LOCATION] on [DATE] at [TIME]. [NAME OF FUNERAL HOME] will be handling the funeral arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to [ORGANIZATION NAME], [MAILING ADDRESS]. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to [ORGANIZATION/NAME].

[FINAL WORDS].

Remember most newspapers charge by the word, this template is good for getting all the information necessary in as few words possible. However, this template can be changed based on what you feel is necessary.

WRITE YOUR OWN OBITUARY



How did you work tikkun olam over your life time?

How did you make the world a better place?

How will people remember you? Why?

How do you want people to remember you?

Who was the real you, all along?

Who did you become?

What did you say 'no' to?

What did you say 'yes' to?

Who will miss you the most?

Write your obituary in one or two paragraphs

<https://www.fearlessculture.design/blog-posts/write-obituary-exercise>

Legacy Letter Sentence Completions
from The Forever Letter by Elana Zaiman

1. The values I believe in are...

2. The values I believe in and find hard to live are...

3. Here's what I learned from my parents...

4. Here's what I wish I had learned from my parents...

5. Here's what I learned. From my grandparents., grandchildren, sisters, brothers, children., teachers, students, aunts, uncles, mentors, friends (choose one for each three minute write)...

6. The most important people in my life are/were...

7. The stories that have guided me in my life are...

8. The most meaningful lessons I have learned have been...

9. My strengths as a person are....

10. My strengths as a daughter (son), sister (brother), partner (spouse), wife (Husband), mother (father), Grandmother (Grandfather), Aunt (Uncle), other family member or friend are...

11. My weaknesses as a person are...

12. My weaknesses as a daughter (son), sister (brother), partner (spouse), wife (Husband), mother (father), Grandmother (Grandfather), Aunt (Uncle), other family member or friend are...

13. The most powerful gift(s) I have to offer is/are...

14. The most powerful gift(s) I have received is (has been)...

15. My personal challenges and struggles have been...

16. I've lived up to my ideals by...

17. I've fallen short of my ideal by...

18. What I most want to tell the people I love about me...

19. What I most want to tell the people I love about them...

20. I love you because...

21. These are your strengths...

22. Here is what you have taught me...

23. My hopes for you are...

24. As I review my life, I regret...

25. As I review my life, I'm grateful for...

26. Please forgive me for...

27. I forgive myself for...

28. I'm trying to forgive myself for...

29. I can't forgive myself for...

30. I forgive you for...

31. What I most want to be remembered for...

32. My blessings for you are...

33. May you...

Legacy Letter Questions
from The Forever Letter by Elana Zaiman

1. Describe a time in your life when an important value was formed. Why is this value so important to you?
2. What is the most precious gift you have ever received? Was it an actual gift? Was it words? Was it an experience you shared with someone you love(d)? Why was this gift so meaningful?
3. What are your top ten values? Are you living these values? Why? Why not?
4. What organizations do you belong to? Why?
5. What organizations do you contribute to? Why?
6. To the organizations you belong to and contribute to match your values?
7. What values do you want to share with the person you were writing to?
8. Who are (were) The 10 most important people in your life? Why?
9. What are the 10 most important causes in your life? Why?
10. What are the 10 most important objects in your life? What does each represent? Did you acquire these objects on your own? Or were they given to you? By whom?
11. What words have helped you move forward in your life? What words have held you back? Who delivered these words?
12. What messages have your parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, teachers, students, mentors, friends left you with?
13. What do you most want the recipient of your words to understand about you? How would knowing these things about you help your relationship?
14. Can you trace any of your values back to a certain moment in time? Do you recall when any of your values originated? Who helped to instill these values? How? Why?
15. If you died tomorrow, what would the people closest to you say?

Five-Step Legacy Letter

<https://sixtyandme.com/write-legacy-letter/>

1. Who is your letter for?
2. Thank you: what you appreciate and are grateful for in this relationship
3. Life lessons: three things life has taught me
4. Life Values: what matters most to me
5. In closing: a special saying, favorite poem, Torah quotation

Mimi Holmes: Death in Three Acts: Act II: What's on your Tombstone Writing your Legacy Resources

Six-word Memoirs:

<https://www.dougweller.net/6-word-life-memoirs-discover-how-to-sum-up-a-life-in-a-sentence/>

<https://thewritepractice.com/six-word/>

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-an-unforgettable-six-word-story#what-is-a-sixword-story>

Resources for writing your own Obituary:

<https://www.fearlessculture.design/blog-posts/write-obituary-exercise>

<https://www.joincake.com/blog/how-to-write-an-obituary-for-yourself/>

<https://www.funeralbasics.org/write-great-obituary/>

<https://everloved.com/articles/obituaries-and-funeral-announcements/top-free-obituary-templates/> can make free website to post the obituary online.

Resources for writing a Legacy Letter:

<https://sixtyandme.com/write-legacy-letter/>

<https://www.joincake.com/blog/legacy-letters/>

<https://www.legacyletter.org/12-great-tips-on-how-to-write-an-amazing-legacy-letter/>

<https://psiloveyou.xyz/how-to-write-a-legacy-letter-d041fbe05607>

<https://www.storii.com/blog/rethinking-the-ethical-will-writing-a-legacy-letter>

Resources for writing your own Eulogy:

<https://thestorytelleragency.com/goodreads/why-you-should-write-your-own-eulogy-and-what-it-should-say>

<https://nesslabs.com/write-your-own-eulogy>

<https://www.artofmanliness.com/character/behavior/30-days-to-a-better-man-day-21-write-your-eulogy/>