

# Writing an Obituary (The Nelson Mandela Story)

## Assignment:

On 12/5/2013 the world lost a great leader and man who inspired many, Nelson Mandela. Today in class we saw part of a YouTube video on the life of Nelson Mandela, the abusive practices that caused his arrest and the impact that the world involvement had on his release from prison, which led to his actually serving as the head of South Africa.

Your assignment, and one that many beginning journalists must undertake, is to write an informative and meaningful tribute about Nelson Mandela in the format of an obituary.

Step 1: Find a source, or sources, on the life and impact of Nelson Mandela.

Step 2: Watch several tributes to/about Nelson Mandela

Step 3: Create a feature obituary about Nelson Mandela

Use the following website (<http://www.goodbyemag.com/>) to find examples of different obituaries. You can also go to the Orlando Sentinel website and look at other obituaries.

I also recommend the website <http://obituaryguide.com/writingtips.php> to find with tips for writing an effective obituary. The “template” on this site provides you with the following tips:

Use this section as an outline, checklist, sample format, or template to writing an obituary.

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

- **NAME / ANNOUNCEMENT**
  - **Full name of the deceased, including nickname, if any**
  - **Age at death**
  - **Residence (for example, the name of the city) at death**
  - **Day and date of death (remember to include the year)**
  - **Place of death**
  - **Cause of death**
  
- **LIFE**
  - **Date of birth**
  - **Place of birth**
  - **Names of parents**
  - **Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends**
  - **Marriage(s): date of, place, name of spouse**
  - **Education: school, college, university and other**
  - **Designations, awards, and other recognition**
  - **Employment: jobs, activities, stories, colleagues, satisfactions,**

- promotions, union activities, frustrations,
- Places of residence
- Hobbies, sports, interests, activities, and other enjoyment
- Charitable, religious, fraternal, political, and other affiliations; positions held
- Achievements
- Disappointments
- Unusual attributes, humour, other stories
  
- **FAMILY**
  - Survived by (and place of residence):
    - Spouse
    - Children (in order of date of birth, and their spouses)
    - Grandchildren
    - Great-grandchildren
    - Great-great-grandchildren
    - Parents
    - Grandparents
    - Siblings (in order of date of birth)
    - Others, such as nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws
    - Friends
    - Pets (if appropriate)
  
  - Predeceased by (and date of death):
    - Spouse
    - Children (in order of date of birth)
    - Grandchildren
    - Siblings (in order of date of birth)
    - Others, such as nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws
    - Pets (if appropriate)
  
- **SERVICE**
  - Day, date, time, place
  - Name of officiant, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers, other information
  - Visitation information if applicable: day, date, time, place
  - Reception information if applicable: day, date, time, place
  - Other memorial, vigil, or graveside services if applicable: day, date, time, place
  - Place of interment
  - Name of funeral home in charge of arrangements
  - Where to call for more information (even if no service planned)
  
- **END**
  - Memorial funds established
  - Memorial donation suggestions, including addresses
  - Thank you to people, groups, or institutions

- **Quotation or poem**

**Three words that sum up the life**

Use the attached form to complete this assignment. This form will need to be turned in on Monday, 12/9/2013.

## Obituary Assignment

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Information Obtained:

Use this section as an outline, checklist, sample format, or template to writing an obituary.

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

**PERSON:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Full name of the deceased, including nickname, if any  |  |
| Age at death   |  |
| Residence (for example, the name of the city) at death |  |
| Day and date of death (remember to include the year)   |  |
| Place of death   |  |
| Cause of death   |  |

**LIFE:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Date of birth                                  |  |
| Place of birth                                 |  |
| Names of parents                               |  |
| Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends |  |
| Marriage(s): date of, place, name of spouse    |  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   |  |
| Education: school, college, university and other  |  |
| Designations, awards, and other recognition   |  |
| Employment: jobs, activities, stories, colleagues, satisfactions, promotions, union activities, frustrations. |  |
| Places of residence.  |  |
| Hobbies, sports, interests, activities, and other enjoyment   |  |
| Charitable, religious, fraternal, political, and other affiliations; positions held                           |  |
| Achievements  |  |
| Disappointments   |  |
| Unusual attributes, humour, other stories   |  |

FAMILY (*Survived by*):

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Spouse  |  |
| Children (in order of date of birth, and their spouses) |  |
| Grandchildren   |  |
| Great-grandchildren                                     |  |
| Great-great-grandchildren                               |  |
| Parents   |  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Grandparents                                      |  |
| Siblings (in order of date of birth)              |  |
| Others, such as nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws |  |
| Friends   |  |
| Pets (if appropriate)                             |  |

FAMILY (*Predeceased by*):

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Spouse, and date of death            |  |
| Children (in order of date of birth) |  |
| Grandchildren                        |  |
| Siblings (in order of date of birth) |  |
| Parents                              |  |
| Others (nieces, nephews, etc.)       |  |

SERVICE:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Day, date, time, place  |  |
| Name of officiant, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers, other information |  |
| Visitation information if applicable:<br>day, date, time, place         |  |
| Reception information if applicable:<br>day, date, time, place          |  |
| Other memorial, vigil, or graveside                                     |  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| services if applicable: day, date, time, place                  |  |
| Place of interment  |  |
| Name of funeral home in charge of arrangements                  |  |
| Name of funeral home in charge of arrangements                  |  |
| Where to call for more information (even if no service planned) |  |

END

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Memorial funds established                         |  |
| Memorial donation suggestions, including addresses |  |
| Thank you to people, groups, or institutions       |  |
| Quotation or poem                                  |  |
| Three words that sum up the life                   |  |

Sources Used:

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