Obituaries

- One of the writing styles particular to newspapers is that of the obituary.

- In a number of newspapers entry level editorial staffers get their start by writing obituaries.

You will be asked to write your own obituary with three purposes in mind. First, you will learn how to write in a tightly formatted style. Second, it will allow you to pause and reflect on your life up to this point. [The obituary is to be factual except for the date and cause of death.] Third, it will allow you to practice writing for deadline.

The format follows:

Title/Slug - [Your name - obituary]
Date
Author - [Your name]

*Each section below should be a separate paragraph. Each paragraph may be 1 or 2 sentences long.*

- Name, Age, Claim to Fame [what you would be known for], Cause and date of death [cause would be fictional and date would be in the past].

- Additional information regarding claim to fame

- Chronology of life – where you were born, schools you attended, etc.

- Awards, honors, volunteer work and membership in organizations, clubs

- Survivors (relatives)

- Funeral arrangements

Points will be taken off for errors in grammar, punctuation and for failure to follow the format.