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# **Leedy Foundation: How to Write Your Own Obituary: Reflection & Planning Worksheet**

**In Partnership with the Leedy Foundation**The Leedy Foundation preserves and celebrates artistic legacies through its archives, exhibitions, and programs. Including your connection to the Foundation can help situate your work within a broader community of artists and document your creative legacy for future audiences.

Writing your own obituary is not just a planning tool—it’s a way to reflect on your life, values, and artistic legacy. This exercise helps you live intentionally while preparing a meaningful record for the future.

## **Part 1: Reflective Insights**

Writing your obituary can teach you how to live more purposefully. Consider these prompts before drafting:

* **Clarity of Priorities:** What truly matters to you in life and in your art?
* **Focus on the Essential:** Which achievements, experiences, or relationships bring the most meaning?
* **Goal Setting & Direction:** What ambitions or projects do you want to pursue intentionally?
* **Personal Growth:** In what areas of skill, character, or creativity do you want to improve?
* **Relationships & Connections:** Who are the people you most want to nurture and honor?
* **Legacy & Contribution:** How do you want your art and life to positively impact others?
* **Leedy Foundation Connection:** How does your work’s inclusion in archives, exhibitions, or programs reflect your legacy?
* **Live in Alignment:** How can your daily actions reflect your core values?
* **Gratitude & Appreciation:** What accomplishments, experiences, or people are you most grateful for?
* **Mindfulness & Presence:** How can you be more present and engaged in everyday life?

**Tip:** Answer these prompts in bullet points or short paragraphs. These reflections will feed directly into your obituary draft.

## **Part 2: Practical Obituary Planning**

Use this section to structure the actual content of your obituary, focusing on your artistic life and contributions.

### **1. Personal Details**

* Full Name (include professional/studio name if different):
* Birth Date & Place:
* Death Date & Place (if known):
* Surviving Family / Relationships:
* Preferred Name / Nickname:

### **2. Artistic Biography**

* Mediums / Styles Worked In:
* Key Themes or Motifs:
* Education / Training:
* Major Career Milestones:
* Notable Collaborations / Partnerships:
* Awards / Honors / Recognitions:
* Influences & Inspirations:
* **Leedy Foundation Participation:** (Archive submissions, exhibitions, library inclusion)

### **3. Artistic Contributions**

* Significant Works / Series (Title, Year, Medium, Location if public):
* Collections / Institutions Holding Work:
* Publications / Catalogues Featuring Work:
* Community Impact / Teaching / Mentorship:

### **4. Personal Voice**

* Quotes or Life Philosophy:
* Personal Anecdotes Relating to Art Practice:
* Hobbies / Passions Outside Art (Optional):

### **5. Memorial & Funeral Details**

* Type of Service (Funeral, Memorial, Celebration of Life):
* Date / Time / Location:
* Special Requests for Artwork Display:
* Music, Readings, or Speakers:
* Charities or Funds Suggested for Donations:

## **Part 3: Draft Space**

Use this section to write a first draft of your obituary. Include reflections, achievements, Leedy Foundation contributions, and the aspects of your life and practice that matter most to you.