

Humanist funeral extracts

Read the extracts from humanist funerals below. Underline or highlight in different colours those words and phrases that refer to the following humanist beliefs:

- a) Death is the end of our individual existence.
- b) We should try to make the most of the one life we have.
- c) Funerals can celebrate a life that has been lived as well as acknowledge sadness at saying goodbye.
- d) Something of us can live on after we die: our atoms, genes, works, and shared ideas and experiences.



Extracts from humanist funerals:

- 1) A humanist ceremony is an opportunity to join in taking leave of someone we have loved... but it is more than that. It is a celebration of the life and personality that have been.
- 2) We know that the value and the meaning in life consist in living it – and living it well. People who have been a strength and comfort to others and have worked for future generations, deriving fulfillment and satisfaction from so doing, these are the people who create the value and meaning in life.
- 3) All that has life has its beginning and its end. Life exists in the time span between birth and death and, for those of us who believe that death brings the end of individual existence, life's significance lies in the experiences and satisfactions we achieve in that span of time.
- 4) The comfort of having a friend may indeed be lost, but the comfort of having had that friend is never lost. To match the grief in losing him you have the joy of having known him.
- 5) For those of us who believe that death brings the end of individual existence, recognition of our responsibility for, and dependence on, each other gives life a purpose and significance.
- 6) No life is ever completely lost: we live on through the influence we have had on the lives of those who remain.
- 7) What matters is not that someone has died, but that they have lived. Let us concentrate today on the delight and wonder of their lives.
- 8) His body we commit to its natural end, its transformation into the ultimate elements of the universe.
- 9) We have been remembering with love and with gratitude a life that has ended. Let us now return to our homes and our work, resolved that we who live on will use our lives more fully and to better purpose for having known her and for having shared in her life.
- 10) We have been remembering and reminding ourselves that the dead reside not in the grave, but in the hearts and minds of the living.