

LOOKING FOR DETAILS

Robin Hinch, Orange County Register

In an obit, feature or many news stories, one writer can sometimes step out of the pack and stand alone by including important, insignificant details, such as:

- Name (any story behind it?)
- Nickname (why that nickname?)
- Height and weight
- Build (husky, slender, etc.)
- Hair (color and style)
- Dress, style of dress, sense of style
- Occupation (how long, what before)
- Education (where)
- Residence
- Previous residence
- Raised where
- Smokes (what brand)
- Drinks (what kind)
- Marital status
- Age
- Family
- Military background
- Tone of voice
- Gestures
- Temperament
- Religion
- Hobbies/outside interests
- Clubs/organization
- Voice cadence/accent
- Favorite sayings, expressions
- Values
- Introvert/extrovert
- Eye contact
- Smile
- Excess jewelry or lack of jewelry
- Makeup
- Hat
- Speech connectors ("and, uh..." "ya know", "Like, uh," "well, um")
- Scene indicators (wall décor, messy desk, orange sofa with thread-bare cushions)
- Books in bookcase