Introduce yourself

* Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen!
* For those of you who don’t know me, I’m William Bartholomew, Andrew’s little brother.
* I’d like to start by pointing out that the bride looks radiant today—every bit the beautiful bride. As for Andrew well, my mother always said if you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all, right? But he tries hard, so we’ll give him some credit.

Thanks

* Before we get started I would first like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Lakuriqi for helping to make the wedding possible.
* Mom and Dad for also helping to make this weeding possible
* Luke Bowen for his contribution of delicious Evil Genius beer
* Pete for playing the guitar
* Luka Lakuriqi for being the officient
* Elona for helping with planning
* I would like to thank the guests for making the effort to come, near or far. Some Guests have come from Washington DC all the way from Maine to make the wedding.
* Also, I would like to congratulate Andrew and Anisa for picking such a beautiful venue (Crossing Vineyards)
* Everyone seems to be having an amazing time

Describe your connection to the groom(and bride)

Ya know when I was writing this speech I asked my self what does it mean to have a brother. Not just a brother, but an older brother. At first my brother was an adversary. He took his older brother duties very seriously. We would fight, he would harass me, and we would fight again. And in thinking about that I thought of some funny stories about Andrew.

When we were younger he was my enemy:

* From Trapping me in the Elevator in Avalon NJ and sending it up and down for over 35 minutes or the story where
* He putting a wool blanket on me while I was sleeping in the car during one hot summer day. And when I woke up both Andrew and my sister were laughing because I was sweeting in my sleep. Cause looking back that was pretty funny.
* I’m going to tell you the story about the Bull and the Matador: One day when I was perhaps 5-6 years old, we were at the Radnor watching the races. I can’t quite remember exactly what he said but for some reason he set me off. In doing so I proceeded to charge at him like a bull. But as soon as I started charging him he stepped aside as I went smack right into the wall, blood spirted everywhere and had to go to the hospital. I ended up alright but on that day my brother certainly was an formidable adversary.

Additonal Stories

* As an older brother Andrew was always making up nick names for us. probably partly because of the past experiences, as the bull I needed some skills so I began wrestling. After wrestling for a few months I was able to handle my brother quite well. So well, after showing him a wrestling move, he combined my the first part of my name Will with the wrestling move Nelson. I was then know as Wilson after that.
* Fool : Falling off the dingy and watching it circle and circle
* One time we were down at my Dad’s boat anchored out at a local beach a few miles from the marina. Andrew wanted to go to shore in the dinghy. While he was driving to shore he hit a large wave and was knocked from the boat. All I heard from below deck was screaming and when I got above deck of the sail boat I looked out and I saw Andrew swimming as the dinghy went round and round in a circle. And at that point I screamed DAD help!

As we grew older we learned more and more.

* For example one time, after one of our regular poker trips down to AC, we were at a party and things got out of hand with two other guys. One was 6 foot 4 and the other about a 5 foot 9 inch. Now common sense would dictate Andrew would take on the taller guy and I would take on the small guy. But no! Instead of Andrew getting the bigger guy I got to fight him. But even though we didn’t win the fight that day. I think we were both learning.

Generous

* While we had our trials and tribulations I just want to tell you about how generous Andrew is
  + Lending me money to get through difficult times
  + Lending me his car
  + Giving me advise of one of the thousands of little problems life confronts you with

Kind

* People person
* Strike up a conversation
* Discuss almost any topic
* Genuine interest in relationships with others

Resilient

* Like everyone Andrew has faced many challenges
* Not easy being an older brother- everyone expects you to be perfect example for your younger brothers
* Instead he didn’t try to be perfect
* He had some dark days, but through hard work and effort, he turned his dark yesterdays into brighter tomorrows
* Generous, kind, Successful
  + Sucessful person

Toast

* "There is nothing more noble or admirable than watching two incredible people come together as one in the unity of marriage. As your friends and family, we delight in your marriage and offer our encouragement and support. Here is a toast to a long life filled with adventure, love, and cherished moments."