

HANDWRITING ANALYSIS

Analysis of Your Own Handwriting: Procedures

1. Get out both copies of the Fourth Amendment you copied previously.
2. Review the descriptions and examples of the 12 characteristics of handwriting traits.
3. Perform a handwriting analysis of your own handwriting using one copy of the Fourth Amendment.
 - a. Use highlighters or colored pencils to circle letters, words, or lines that demonstrate unusual characteristics or traits.
 - b. For some of the characteristics, it is important that you use a ruler or a caliper to measure the letters or spacing. For example, in characteristic #2, you will need to measure the spacing between words. Note if it is consistent. Note the size of the distance between words. Include your measurements in the comments.
 - c. You will need to complete the entire data table below as you analyze the handwriting using the different characteristics.

Characteristic #	Yes	No	Comments and measurements in mm (if required)
1. Is the line quality smooth?			
2. Are words and margins evenly spaced?			Margins: Words:
3. Is the ratio of small letters to capital letters consistent?			
4. Is the writing continuous?			
5. Are letters connected between capitals and lowercase letters?			
6. Are letter formations complete?			(Which letters?)
7. Is all of the writing cursive?			
8. Is the pen pressure the same throughout?			
9. Do all letters slant to the right?			
10. Are all letters written on the line?			
11. Are there fancy curls or loops?			(Which letters?)
12. Are all i's and t's dotted and crossed? (i's: L, R, center / t's: top, middle, bottom)			i's: t's:

Analysis of a Classmate's Handwriting: Procedures

1. After completing the analysis of your own handwriting, exchange your second Fourth Amendment sample with a classmate.
2. Analyze your classmate's handwriting the same way you did your own, by completing the data table. Be sure to use highlighters or colored pencils to mark any unusual traits. Include measurements where necessary.

Characteristic #	Yes	No	Comments and measurements (if required)
1. Are the lines smooth?			
2. Are words and margins evenly spaced?			Margins: Words:
3. Are the lowercase letters and capital letters consistent sizes?			
4. Is the writing continuous?			
5. Do capitals and lowercase letters connect?			
6. Are letters complete (i.e., not missing parts)?			(Which letters?)
7. Is all of the writing cursive?			
8. Are lines the same thickness throughout?			
9. Do all letters slant to the right?			
10. Are all letters written on the line?			
11. Are there fancy curls or loops?			(Which letters?)
12. Are all i's and t's dotted and crossed? (i's: L, R, center / t's: top, middle, bottom)			i's: t's:

Analysis of Ransom Note

Scenario

A child from a wealthy family has been abducted. His parents received a ransom note requesting a large amount of money in exchange for his safe return. They immediately contacted the police and gave them the ransom note.

The police got a lead pointing to several suspects. After taking the suspects into custody, the police obtained handwriting samples from each of them.

They then called you in as a handwriting expert to analyze the ransom note and compare it to the samples.

Study the ransom note provided by your instructor and analyze it using the 12 characteristics.

Ransom Note			
Characteristic #	Yes	No	Comments and measurements (if required)
1. Are the lines smooth?			
2. Are words and margins evenly spaced?			Margins: Words:
3. Are the lowercase letters and capital letters consistent sizes?			
4. Is the writing continuous?			
5. Do capitals and lowercase letters connect?			
6. Are letters complete (i.e., not missing parts)?			(Which letters?)
7. Is all of the writing cursive?			
8. Are lines the same thickness throughout?			
9. Do all letters slant to the right?			
10. Are all letters written on the line?			
11. Are there fancy curls or loops?			(Which letters?)
12. Are all i's and t's dotted and crossed? (i's: L, R, center / t's: top, middle, bottom)			i's: t's: