

Close Examination

For those samples that appear to be similar to the ransom note, perform an analysis using the 12 different handwriting characteristics. Record your results in a separate data table for each handwriting sample.

| Suspect Name: | | | |
|---|---------|----|---|
| Characteristic # | Ye s | 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: |

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Visual Elimination

If any of the suspects' handwriting can be quickly eliminated without performing a 12 characteristic close examination, you will need to justify your decision with a brief statement explaining why the sample handwriting is obviously different from the ransom note. Reference the 12 characteristics where appropriate (e.g., the handwriting slants in a different direction).

| | |
|---|--|
| Suspect Name: | |
| Reasons for quickly eliminating this sample: | |
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |

| | |
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