

Forensic Science Word Study

Chapter 10 - Handwriting Analysis, Forgery, and Counterfeiting

Directions: Study the following words by reading and rereading them each evening so you will be prepared for the word study test each week. You may use one index card to write as many words and definitions on as possible to use for the test. The card must be written in ink, be in your handwriting, and have your first and last name, your class period, and the chapter recorded in the top, right corner with no obvious erasures or mark outs. ***ALL WORDS MUST BE NUMBERED.*** If all the criteria are met, you may use your index card during the test. It will then be stapled to your test.

- 1.) **counterfeiting** - the production of an imitation of currency, works of art, documents, and name brand look-alikes for the purpose of deception
- 2.) **document analysis** - the examination of questioned documents with known material for a variety of analyses, such as authenticity, alterations, erasures, and obliterations (*which means to destroy (something) completely so that nothing is left*)
- 3.) **document expert** - a person who scientifically analyzes handwriting
- 4.) **exemplar** - a standard document of known origin and authorship used in handwriting analysis
- 5.) **forgery** - the making, adapting, or falsifying of documents or other objects with the intention of deceiving someone
- 6.) **fraudulence** - when a financial gain accompanies a forgery
- 7.) **questioned document** - any signature, handwriting, typewriting, or other written mark whose source or authenticity is in dispute or uncertain
- 8.) **graphologist** - a person who studies the personality of the writer based on handwriting samples. It is generally considered a pseudoscience which is a collection of beliefs or practices mistakenly regarded as being based on scientific method like astrology. Graphology is not used in forensic science.
- 9.) **handwriting analysis in court** - in 1999 the U.S. Court of Appeals determined that handwriting analysis qualified as a form of expert testimony as long as scientifically accepted guidelines were followed.
- 10.) **characteristics of handwriting** - there are 12 characteristics of handwriting which are functions of letter form, line form, and formatting. These characteristics include line quality, spacing, size consistency, continuous letter formation, connecting letters, letters complete, cursive and printed letters, pen pressure, slant, line habits, fancy curls or loops, placement of crosses on t's and dots on i's.
- 11.) **biometric signature pads** - a computerized pad that recognizes your handwriting based on speed, pressure, and the rhythm of signing your name. Forgeries can be recognized by slight differences that are detected by the pad.
- 12.) **The Forensic Information System for Handwriting (FISH)** - a computerized handwriting database used and maintained by the Secret Service and considered more accurate than having a person analyze a piece of writing because a specialist's opinion is often subjective.
- 13.) **detecting counterfeiting currency** - counterfeiting pens and markers that contain iodine and react with paper are currently used to identify counterfeit money along with features found in real money that makes it difficult to copy