

# Handwriting Analysis

## Objective:

To analyze your own and a classmates handwriting for the twelve characteristics discussed in class.

## Procedure

1. Turn in your composition notebook to the end of our first chapter where we wrote out the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment. Analyze your handwriting following the directions that follow.
2. Begin by examining the line quality. Answer the question in the data table, yes or no. Include a description to qualify your answer.
3. Use highlighters or colored pencils to circle letters, words, or lines that demonstrate unusual characteristics or traits.
4. For some of the exemplars it is important that you use a ruler or caliper to measure the letters or spacing. For example in exemplar 2, you will need to measure the spacing between words. Note if it is consistent. Note the size of the distance between words.
5. You will need to complete the entire data table as you examine handwriting using each exemplar.
6. When finished analyze the handwriting on the next page the same way.

## Data

| My Handwriting  |     |    |  |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Characteristic #  | Yes | No | Comments and measurements in mm where required |
| 1. Is the line quality smooth?                              |     |    |  |
| 2. Are words and margins evenly spaced?                     |     |    | Words:<br>Margins:                             |
| 3. Is the size of letters consistent                        |     |    |  |
| 4. Is the writing continuous                                |     |    |  |
| 5. Are capital and lower case letters connected?            |     |    |  |
| 6. Are letter formations complete?                          |     |    | Be specific, which letters?                    |
| 7. Is all of the writing cursive?                           |     |    | Be specific, which words?                      |
| 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 dotted and t's crossed? (top middle or not) |     |    | i's<br>t's                                     |

[illegible]

| Other Handwriting                                |     |    |  |
|--|-----|----|--|
| Characteristic #                                 | Yes | No | Comments and measurements in mm where required |
| 1. Is the line quality smooth?                   |     |    |  |
| 2. Are words and margins evenly spaced?          |     |    | Words:<br>Margins:                             |
| 3. Is the size of letters consistent             |     |    |  |
| 4. Is the writing continuous                     |     |    |  |
| 5. Are capital and lower case letters connected? |     |    |  |
| 6. Are letter formations complete?               |     |    | Be specific, which letters?                    |
| 7. Is all of the writing cursive?                |     |    | Be specific, which words?                      |
| 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 dotted and t's crossed? (top middle or not) |  |  | i's<br>t's |
|---|--|--|------------|

## Analysis

1. Were the handwriting samples studied similar or could you easily tell the handwriting samples were not from the same person just by glancing at them? Explain your answer.
2. Review your data. Did the handwriting samples have any characteristics that were the same? Explain your answer.
3. What characteristics are very different between your writing and the sample you were provided?
4. What characteristics did you find that appeared to be unique and could be used to help identify your writing or writing from the person who wrote the sample?
5. Are there any other characteristics that you would like to have added to the 12 characteristics based on your observations.
6. Why was it important that we used handwriting samples prepared well in advance of this activity? Why is it important in an investigation?