



INTRODUCTION TO HANDWRITING ANALYSIS

Forensic Sciences

BELL-RINGER

- Forensic Science
- FYI:
- A) Bell-Ringer and Journal are due at the end of class!
- B) Chapter 14/15 binder due Friday!
- C) On-Line Quiz, Chapter 15 Due Sunday!

Q: Explain the significance the Jon Bonnet Ramsey ransomed note?



INTRODUCTION

- Document Analysis: a broad area in the field of Forensics, is the examination and comparison of questioned documents with known materials.
- Experts establish the authenticity of the documents and detect any changes, erasures, or obliterations that may have occurred.



INTRODUCTION CONTINUED

- A questioned Document is any signature, handwriting, typewriting, or other mark whose source or authenticity is in dispute or uncertain
- Checks, certificates, wills, passports, licenses, money, letters, contracts. Suicide notes, receipts and even lottery are some questioned documents of interest.



DOCUMENT EXPERT

- A document expert is a specially trained person who scientifically analyzes handwriting and other features in a document
- Investigators analyze and compare various traits such as appearance of letters, of suspicious documents with known samples to help identify the author of the document
- A document expert is different than a graphologist, who studies the personality of the writer based on handwriting samples.



HISTORY OF FORENSIC HANDWRITING ANALYSIS

- Like fingerprints, every persons handwriting is unique and personalized.
- In the 1930's handwriting analysis played an important role in the Bruno Richard Hauptmann trial, dealing with the kidnapping of the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh.
- The courts have not always accepted handwriting analysis as an acceptable form of evidence until 1999, when the US Court of Appeals determined that handwriting analysis qualified as a form of expert testimony.



CHARACTERISTICS OF HANDWRITING

- A person's handwriting exhibits unique characteristics that make it distinguishable from other samples. Handwriting experts examine 12 major categories:
 - **1: Line Quality:** Do the letters flow or are they erratic?
 - **2) Spacing:** Are the letters equally spaced or crowded.



CHARACTERISTICS OF HANDWRITING

- **3: Size Consistency:** Is the ratio of height to width consistent?
- **4: Continuous:** Is the writing continuous or does the writer lift the pen?
- **5: Letters Complete:** Are the letters completely formed?
- **6) Cursives and Printed Letters:** Are letters completely formed?



CHARACTERISTICS OF HANDWRITING

- **7) Pen Pressure:** Is pressure applied to both the upward and downward strokes?
- **8) Slant:** Right, Left or Variable
- **9) Line Habits:** Is the text on the line, above the line, or below the line?



CHARACTERISTICS OF HANDWRITING

- **10) Fancy Curls or Loops:** Are there fancy curls?
- **11) Placement of Crosses on t's and dots on i's:** Correct or misplaced? Are the t's crossed in the middle, towards the top, or towards the bottom? Are I's dotted, dotted towards the right, left or centered?



THANK YOU

- Experiment #41 Tomorrow
- Document Analysis

- See me with questions regarding your grade!

