
Forgery Detection

Purpose

Introduce the basic concepts and rationales necessary to recognize, document, identify, and compare a handwritten forgery.

Equipment and Supplies

1. Known handwriting (script) exemplars (prepared on index cards and in tables, see pages 162 and 163)
2. Known printed handwriting exemplars (prepared on index cards and in tables, see pages 162 and 163)
3. Questioned documents prepared by students (prepared on index cards and in tables, see pages 162 and 163)
4. Hand magnifying glass
5. Stereomicroscope
6. Scale
7. Ruler
8. Protractor
9. Blue pen (same type must be used by all students)
10. 35-mm camera
11. Black-and-white film
12. 3-in. by 5-in. white index cards

Procedure

Most casework performed by forensic document examiners involves identifying the authorship of handwritten documents, such as historical records, letters, wills, and checks. The primary technique is the comparison of the handwriting of a known author or suspected forger with the handwriting on a questioned document. The four basic methods used by forgers to carry out their work are tracing, freehand copying, mechanical lifting, and optical and/or printing reproduction.

This experiment relates to the use and detection of handwritten forgeries. It requires preparation of documents by the students before they proceed with the comparison and identification aspects of the experiment.

1. Preparation of documents. Your instructor will direct you to prepare certain handwriting exemplars and documents. Follow all instructions precisely. Do not add any identifying information to the exemplars.
 - A. **Preparation of Script Handwriting Exemplar (Normal):** In your normal handwriting, write the following five items on separate index cards:
 1. Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
 2. The little sly, quick, clever, young, red fox jumped over the big, drowsy, lazy, guard dog.
 3. Goodnight, goodnight! Parting is such sweet sorrow; shall I say goodnight, 'til it be morrow?
 4. 1111, 2222, 3333, 4444, 5555, 6666, 7777, 8888, 9999, 0000
 5. - - ,, // !! ?? () "" <> ## \$\$ %% && ++ [].. ;; ::
 - B. **Preparation of Script Handwriting Exemplar (Disguised):** Disguise your normal handwriting and write the five items below on separate index cards:
 1. Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
 2. The little sly, quick, clever, young, red fox jumped over the big, drowsy, lazy, guard dog.
 3. Goodnight, goodnight! Parting is such sweet sorrow; shall I say goodnight, 'til it be morrow?
 4. 1111, 2222, 3333, 4444, 5555, 6666, 7777, 8888, 9999, 0000
 5. - - ,, // !! ?? () "" <> ## \$\$ %% && ++ [].. ;; ::
 - C. **Preparation of Printed Handwriting Exemplar (Normal):** Using your normal hand, print the following five items on index cards:
 1. Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
 2. The little sly, quick, clever, young, red fox jumped over the big, drowsy, lazy, guard dog.
 3. Goodnight, goodnight! Parting is such sweet sorrow; shall I say goodnight, 'til it be morrow?
 4. 1111, 2222, 3333, 4444, 5555, 6666, 7777, 8888, 9999, 0000
 5. - - ,, // !! ?? () "" <> ## \$\$ %% && ++ [].. ;; ::

- D. **Preparation of Printed Handwriting Exemplar (Disguised):** Disguising your normal hand, print the following five items on index cards:
1. Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
 2. The little sly, quick, clever, young, red fox jumped over the big, drowsy, lazy, guard dog.
 3. Goodnight, goodnight! Parting is such sweet sorrow; shall I say goodnight, 'til it be morrow?
 4. 1111, 2222, 3333, 4444, 5555, 6666, 7777, 8888, 9999, 0000
 5. - - ,, // !! ?? () ""' <> ## \$\$ %% && ++ [].. ;; ::
- E. **Preparation of Questioned Exemplars:** In the empty spaces of Table 24.1, sign the name as Joseph John Doe. Write in your normal freehand style as if you were signing an important document. Use the empty spaces in Table 24.2 to practice copying Joseph John Doe as you wrote it in Table 24.1.

TABLE 24.1
Model Signature Exemplars

Joseph John Doe	

TABLE 24.2
Copies of Signatures from Table 24.1

Joseph John Doe	

- F. **Preparation of Questioned Check:** Using Figure 24.1, prepare a check to cash for \$1000.00. Sign it as Joseph John Doe. Endorse (also as Joseph John Doe) the reverse side of the check that appears in the figure and add your account number 20222 2842 to your endorsement.

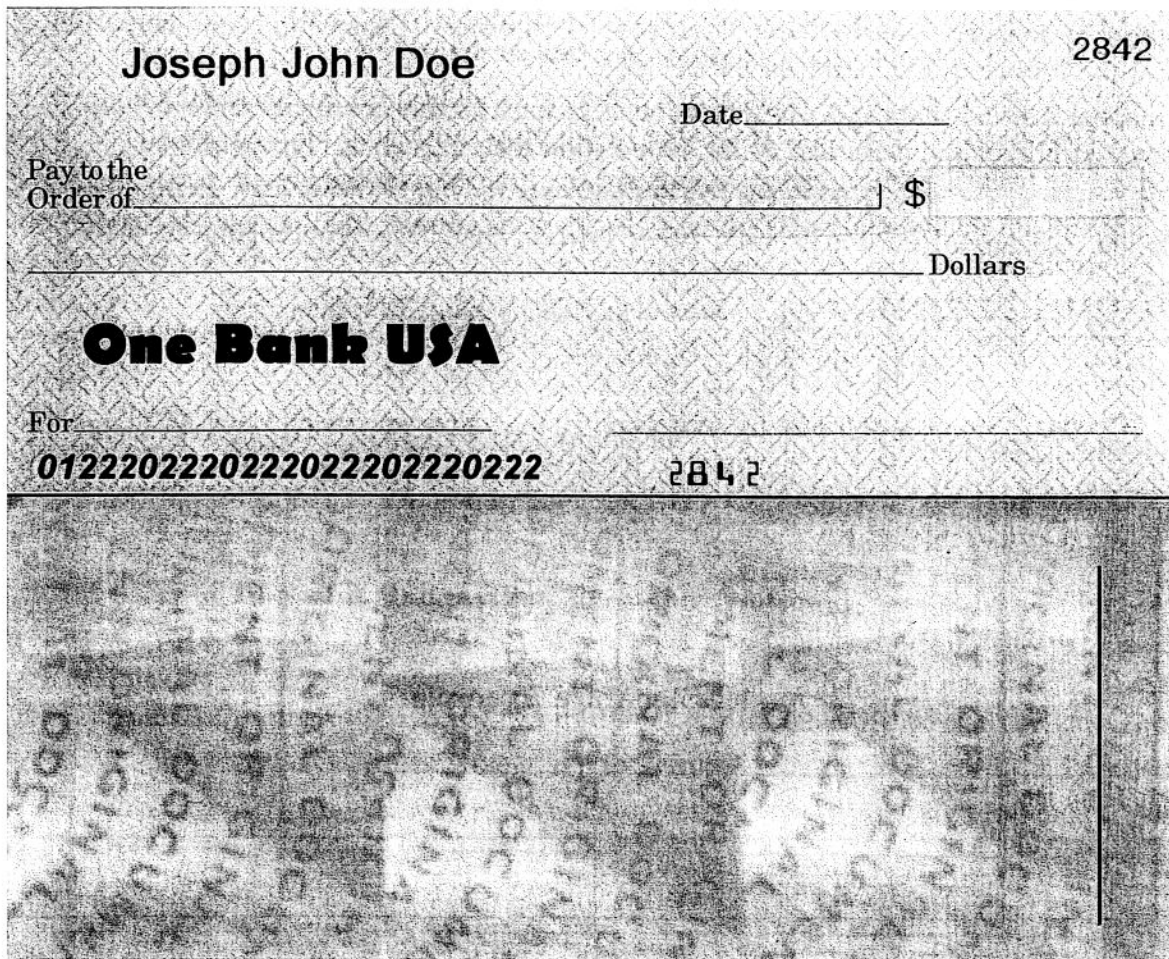


FIGURE 24.1

Blank check.

2. Write your name on one of the index cards provided by your instructor. Return it to the instructor along with the exemplars you prepared. The instructor will store the materials in a secure place until they are needed for the comparison and identification phases of the experiment.
3. On the day of the forgery laboratory session, you will receive one questioned exemplar from your instructor. You will be asked to identify the author of the questioned exemplar by comparing the questioned writing on the questioned exemplar with the writing on each set of known exemplars.

Report

1. Report your findings in the space below. Identify the author of your questioned document by the code number on the known set of exemplars.
2. Justify your conclusions.
3. List matching features of the questioned and known handwritings.
4. Take several black-and-white photographs of the similar characteristics you used to identify the author of the questioned exemplar.