

Name: _____ Date: _____

Characteristics of Handwriting Lab

Objective

To analyze your own handwriting using the Characteristics Table, similar to what examiners use in the field.

Materials

- Blue or Black Pen
- The 12 characteristics from your Questioned Documents computer-based presentation notes
- A sheet of lined notebook paper
- Magnifying glass
- Characteristics Table Handout

Procedure

1. Write the following paragraph in cursive on your sheet of lined notebook paper. Do not try to disguise your writing. Write like you normally would in cursive.

At 3:57 p.m. detectives responded to an attempted murder at 1234 Elm Street. Upon entering the residence, they noticed a broken glass sliding door. In the residence, they noticed blood spatter. Eventually, they find out that the blood samples came from two different individuals. Eyewitnesses describe a tall, Caucasian man fleeing the scene in a white unmarked van. He was seen wearing blue coveralls and white sneakers. The detectives continued to process the scene and analyze all of the important evidence to help make their case.

2. Using the magnifying glass examine the paragraph that you just wrote.
3. Using your notes about the 12 characteristics, analyze your own handwriting. Fill out the Characteristics Table handout.
4. After you complete the Characteristics Table handout, compare your handwriting with another student's sample. With your partner, discuss how each of your handwritings is unique to you.
5. Write a conclusion on the back of the Characteristics Table handout describing what you learned in this lab about handwriting and the 12 characteristics. It must be at least 6 sentences.

1. Name: _____ Date: _____

Characteristics Table

Characteristic	Observation while analyzing your own Handwriting
1. Spacing of words and letters	
2. Relative height, width, and size of letters	
3. Line quality	
4. Connecting strokes	
5. Beginning and ending strokes	
6. Pen lifts and separations	
7. Shading and pen pressure	
8. Baseline habits	
9. Slant	
10. Unusual letter formation	
11. Flourishes or embellishments	
12. Letter characteristics	