

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Handwriting Analysis Activity

**Materials:** Documents to be examined (attached on blog), ruler, protractor, magnifying glass

**Instructions:** Perform the activities you are asked to complete. Reference the example packet when necessary.

### Part 1: Your Handwriting vs Forged Writing

1. Write your own signature five times in the spaces below:

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are your five signatures the same? Explain how they are different or how they are the same. Use complete sentences.

3. Try to write your signature EXACTLY as you did in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sample above.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is your signature above identical to the signature you tried to copy it from? Explain why or why not. Use complete sentences.

5. Ask a family member to write your signature EXACTLY as you did in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sample, above.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Was your family member able to copy your signature? Explain the similarities and differences. Use complete sentences.

Part 2: Handwriting Analysis

1. Figure H-1 is a ransom note received by the President of the Super Cola Company. Your job is to determine who wrote the ransom note.
2. Use the handwriting samples from the suspects in Figure H-2 to determine who, if anyone, sent the ransom note.
3. Fill-in the table below with information about each of the handwriting samples. Use a ruler when necessary.

	Ransom Note	Suspect 1	Suspect 2	Suspect 3	Suspect 4	Suspect 5
Spacing of words and letters (Ex: 5 mm/2 mm)						
Relative height and width of letters (Ex: 4 mm/3 mm)						
Pen lifts and separations?						
Unusual letter formations? Describe.						
Shading of letters?						
Describe the slant of the writing						
Describe the line habits of the writer.						
Flourishes or embellishments?						

4. Based on your analysis, who wrote the ransom note? Give a detailed explanation for how you reached this conclusion including specific references to your data.

*Part 3: Disguised Handwriting*

1. In the space below, write the following sentence in your normal handwriting: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog
2. In the space below, write the same sentence but attempt to disguise your handwriting.
3. In the space below, write the same sentence but use your non-dominant hand.
4. Describe the specific differences between your normal handwriting, your disguised handwriting, and your other hand writing. Use specific examples and complete sentences.
5. Which of the two methods do you think was the most successful as disguising your handwriting? Why? Use complete sentences.
6. Figure H-3 shows one example of natural handwriting and one example of disguised handwriting. Which is which? Explain how you reached this conclusion. Use complete sentences.
7. Based on what you have observed how do you think handwriting experts tell the difference between real handwriting and disguised handwriting? Use complete sentences.