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.
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.
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 person's 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?
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!