

Your Predecessor's Personality on Paper



Handwriting Analysis: what it is and is not

Handwriting analysis is not the same as forensic document examination, paeleography or calligraphy. Handwriting analysis is not fortune-telling; it cannot predict a person's future.

Handwriting analysis has some relation to psychological projective techniques in its goal of determining personality traits through a person's written script.

What handwriting characteristics are examined in an analysis?

- Slant
- Size
- Spacing
- Pressure
- Letter formation
- Punctuation/Diacritical marks
- Simplification vs. embellishment
- Speed
- Legibility vs. illegibility

The ideal writing specimen

- Original
- Full sized sheet of paper (vs. postcard, napkin, etc,)
- Script plus signature
- Date included

Recommended Resources

Books:

- *Handwriting Analysis: The Complete Basic Book* by Karen K. Amend and Mary S. Ruiz
- *Handwriting Analysis: Putting It to Work for You* by Andrea Mc Nichol
- *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Handwriting Analysis* by Sheila Lowe

Professional Associations:

- American Association of Handwriting Analysts (AAHA)
- International Graphoanalysis Society (IGAS)
- American Society of Professional Graphologists (ASPG)
- American Handwriting Analysis Foundation (AHAF)
- Other national, regional, and local associations listed at www.handwriting.org

Classes offered through Joliet Junior College-Community and Continuing Education