 Activity 11: Handwriting Characteristics

*How can handwriting be traced to its source?* **Materials**

• blank lined paper

• Analysis of Ransom Note Table

• pen

**Instructions**

**Part 1: Look at your own handwriting.**

1. On the blank lined paper, write your name five times.

• Does the name look the same on all five lines? Explain.

2. Now, try to write your name exactly the same way you wrote it on the last line.

• Were you able to copy your name exactly?

3. Ask a friend or family member to try and write your name the same as you did on the last line.

• What differences do you notice between your friend's copy and your actual handwriting?

**Part 2: Ransom Note Analysis**

1. Read the list of handwriting characteristics described in the Analysis of Ransom Note

Table provided on the next page.

2. After you have read all the characteristics, you will examine a ransom note for these features.

3. Record your observations of each characteristics from the ransom note on the

*Analysis of Ransom Note Table*.

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| --- | --- |
| Handwriting Characteristics | Observations from Ransom Note |
| Spacing of words and letters• Are words and letters close together or far apart? |  |

 ADLC Science 6



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| --- | --- |
| Relative height,width,and size of letters• Are all the letters the same size? Are some letters noticeably smaller or larger? |  |
| Pen lifts and separations• Can you tell if the writer lifted the pen to start a new word, or does the pen continue between words? |  |
| Unusual letter formations• Are any letters written in an unusual way?• Do some have different slants and angles?• Does the writer use circles to do the i,or does the writer loop on certain letters at the beginning or the end? |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  Slant of writing• Do the letters slant in a certain direction, or are they straight?• Do all the letters slant the same way? |  |

Ransom Note





4. Now compare the ransom note to the handwriting samples from three suspects. Which suspect took the formula?

