Analyze Your Own Handwriting

**Directions:** Write the two paragraphs below on a separate sheet of lined paper. Use the criteria for analyzing handwriting to comment on each of the 12 characteristics to analyze your own handwriting.

Does handwriting reveal your personality? No. This type of analysis is called graphology and is junk science. Handwriting also cannot be related to sex, race, education, religion, and usually not to health and age. A linguist, however, can often postulate the type of person and his or her background.

During the Franco-Prussian War, the Germans routinely obtained French military secrets. A French spy working as a cleaning woman in the German Embassy found a handwritten letter in a wastebasket referring to the sale of military secrets. Captain Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason based on the erroneous identification of handwriting samples by our old friend, Bertillon, then a junior records clerk in the Surete. In 1894 Dreyfus was sentenced to life imprisonment on the notorious Devil’s Island in French Guiana. Four years later, the famous French author Emile Zola publicly condemned the court martial, eventually leading to Dreyfus’s exoneration and return to society and the army.

Analyze Your Neighbors Handwriting

**Directions:** Analyze the two paragraphs written by two of your neighbors. Use the criteria for analyzing handwriting to comment on each of the 12 characteristics to analyze their handwriting.