

AMERICAN HANDWRITING ANALYSIS FOUNDATION
GLOSSARY OF STANDARD GRAPHOLOGY TERMS
A Dictionary for Handwriting Analysts Prepared By Eldene Whiting, 1990

ABERRANT WRITING - A-ber-rant, adj. - (Webster) Departs substantially from standard. (Sassi/Whiting) Awkward writing, untidy, poor form.
Syn. Atypical, awkward. Ant.

ACCENTUATION- ak-sent-u-A-shun, n. - (Bischoff) Sudden heavy pressure on stroke. Punctuation, underline or special spacing.

ACCESSORY - ak-SESS-or-ee, n. - (Eng.) Ornament a l part of letter not essential to structure.
Syn: Elaboration. Ornate. Ant: Simplicity.

ACCIDENTAL - ak-si-DEN-tal, n. – Document Examination) Letter form that falls outside natural variations of an individual writing as a result of some interference, either physical or mental.

Syn:

Ant: Normal form for that writer.

ACTIONLINE - AK-shun line, n. Real or imagined, at bottom of the middle Syn. Baseline. Observation line. (Graphometry) Line, zone of writing.

ADJUSTMENT - ad-JUST-ment, n. - (Saudek) Momentary reorientation on the writing surface. Normally, occurs at the beginning of each word; abnormally, occurs within ductus anywhere.

Syn: Hesitation, retrace, break, gap.

Ant: Continuity.

ADORNMENT - ad-ORN-ment, n. - (Bischoff) Flourish, embellishment of superfluous stroke.

Syn. Elaboration.

Ant. Simplicity.

AFFECTATION - af-fek-TA-shun, n. - (Saudek) Vanity writing which gives an appearance of false pretention. A type of persona writing.

Syn. Pretentious writing.

Ant. Natural form and movement.

AGRAMMATISM - a-GRAM-a-tizm, n. - (Roman) Difficulty in forming normal connected sentences. Omission of articles, prepositions or conjunctions.

Syn: Telegram style.

Ant: Correct grammar.

AGRAPHIA - a-GRAF-e-a, n. - (Roman) Neurological disorder which creates an inability to transform thoughts into writing. Drawing or tracing letters mechanically without spontaneity.

Motor agraphia, - n. Cramped, illegible writing with little control of hand movements.

Sensory agraphia, - n. Letters are copied or drawn with no comprehension of the written word.

Syn. Word blindness.

AIRBRIDGE, - n. (Pokorny, Victor) Graphically unrecorded portion of a stroke bridging the gap between the end of one stroke and the point the stroke returns to the paper to execute the next stroke. Usually preceded by a trailing off of pressure.

Syn. Airstroke, connectedness AIRSTROKE, - n. See above.

ALEXIA - a-LEX-se-a, n. (Roman) Failure to recognize or understand words by sight. Usually a result of disease or damage to the speech/language area in the brain.

Syn. Word blindness, agraphia, aphasias.

ALIGNMENT - a-LIN-ment, n. (Roman) Spatial organization of the writing pattern. Refers to consistency of baseline, margins, and spacing of letters, words and lines.

Syn. Arrangement, symmetry, rhythm.

Ant. Fluctuation.

ALPHABET - AL-fa-bet, n. (Webster) A system of signs representing single sound s of speech. Name derived from the first two words of Phoenician alphabet: alph and beth.

AMBIDEXTERITY - AM-bi-dex-TER-i-te, n. (Roman) Two handedness. Writing with equal fluency using either hand. A natural trait, not to be confused with congenital left handedness in which the writer has been trained to write with his right hand.

Syn. Both handedness.

AMBIVALENCE - am-BIV-a-lens, n. (Hearns) Simultaneous existence of contradictory writing factors which reveal contradictory emotions.

Syn. Uncertainty. Conflict.

Ant. Consistency.

AMORPHOUS - a-MOR-fus, adj. (Roman) Shapeless. Breakdown of letter forms or abrupt change of connective forms. Weak, malformed letters.

Syn. Illegible.

Ant. Precise letter form.

AMPERSAND - AM-per-sand, n. (Webster) or symbol for the word "and." &. A common abbreviation

ANALYSIS - A-NAL-i-sis, n. (Webster) Separation of a whole into its component parts, followed by examination, study and evaluation of the elements. Relation of each part to other parts and to the whole. Synthesis of the results form new ideas or concepts.

ANALYST - AN-a-list, n. (Webster) One skilled or occupied with analysis.

ANALYZE - AN-a-liz, v. To engage in the occupation of analysis.

ANGLE - AN-gl, n. (Sassi/Whiting) A basic connective link produced by abrupt changes of direction resulting in braced forms. May be found in all zones of writing.

Syn. Gothic script. Sacre Couer. (illustrate)

APHASIA - a-FAZ-e-a, n. (Die t. of Psychology) Partial or complete loss of ability to use language, as a result of cerebral damage.

- a.) motor aphasia, an inability to utter words.
- b.) sensory aphasia, inability to understand written or printed words (visual) or spoken speech (auditory)
- c.) syntactical, inability to put words and phrases together properly.
- d.) nominal, inability to find the proper word to use.
- e.) amnesic, inability to remember words,
- f.) global, or combined sensory and motor aphasia.

Syn. A language faculty. See alexia, agraphia.

ARCADE - ar-KAD, n. (Sassi/Whiting) A basic connective link producing a stroke resembling an architectural arch. A clockwise curve at top of the stroke, open at the bottom.
Syn. Arc.
(illustrate)

ARC - ark', n. A rounded curve at the top of a standard letter form, as in the m, n, or h.
Syn. Arcade, hump.

ARRANGEMENT - a-RANG-ment, n. Adaptation of writing to space. Total pattern of margins, spacing, zonal proportion, slant.
Syn. Organization, distribution. Ant. Fluctuation. Disarray.

ARRHYTHMIA - a-RITH-me-a, n. Disturbed flow of writing. Unpredictable variations of form which disrupts smooth movement.
Syn. Disrhythm. Fluctuation.
Ant. Rhythm, Form level.

ARTIFICIAL WRITING - ar-ti-FISH-l, adj. Controlled writing form producing pretentious or pseudo-artistic. Usually slow with an appealing picture value.
Syn. Formal, affected.
Ant. Spontaneous. Natural.

ASCENDING BASELINE - a-SEND-ing, adj. Baseline which rises from a beginning point at the left margin to a higher right margin finish.
(illustration)

ASSISTED SIGNATURE - a-SIS-ted SIG-na-chur, n. (Doc.Ex.) Signature written with physical assistance from another writer.

ATAXIA - a-TAX-e-a, n. Neurological disorder which causes defective coordination of the voluntary muscles. May appear in writing as tremulous, shaky, jerky, or broken ductus.

ATTENUATION - at-ten-u-A-shun, n.- Tapering in word or letter size; smaller at end.
Syn: Tapering, thread.
Ant. Even mz.

ATOMISTIC GRAPHOLOGY - at-a-MIS-tic, adj. Analysis of single letters or parts of letters.
Syn: Stroke-trait; Trait-stroke.
Ant: Holistic. Global.

AUTISM - AW-tiz-m, n. (Hearns) Introspection uninfluenced by reality.

AUTOGRAPH - AW-toe-graph, n. Signature or signed piece of writing collected by those who make it a hobby or business.

Syn: A.D.S. (Autograph Document Signed)

A.L.S. (Autograph Letter signed)

AUTOMATIC - aw-to-MA-tic, adj.- (Saudek) Mature act of writing in letter, word or sentence impulses according to the maturity of the writer and his familiarity with the language and alphabet. A complex act of will without consciously turning the attention to the technical details of writing.

Syn. Freedom of movement.

Ant. Uneducated writing.

AXIS - AC-sis, n.- (Document Examination) Term used by forensic examiners to measure distances in the writing. If the distance is measured the same within two exemplars, even if the form appears to be different, it suggests that the same person wrote both exemplars.

AXIS RULE - AC-sis rool, n. (Document Examination) Term for a measurement between words of two exemplars.

BALANCE OF MARGINS, adj. - Harmonious picture of all margins. Left and right margins similar in width. Even length of lines. Top margins lightly wider than the bottom margin.

Syn: Alignment, arrangement.

BALANCE OF WRITING, adj. - Equal expansion and contraction which produces a freedom of movement. Equal balance between tension and release.

Syn: Rhythm.

BALANCE OF ZONES, adj.- (Mendel) UZ and LZ extensions similar in length. MZ is in proportion to extensions.

Ratio of normal zonal balance (Klein)

- Unizonal lettersets standard = a

UZ is $3x a = 1, h, \text{etc.}$

LZ is $2-1/2 \times a = g, y, \text{etc.}$

F is $4x a$.

Male: = $1:3:2-1/2:4$

Female: = $1:2-1/2:3:3-1/2$

BALLPOINT PEN, n.- Ball mechanism pen invented in the 1890s, commercially produced in mid 1930s. Patented in France, manufactured in Czechoslovakia, production was halted during WW II. Early models produced in Argentina in 1944 were claimed to write under water. Better inks were perfected after 1949.

(Ball point pens were not considered suitable for analysis because they did not offer the same kind of obvious pressure patterns graphologists were accustomed to. This prejudice has since been overcome.)

BAR, n. - (Bischoff) Horizontal stroke or diacritic added to the stem of letter T.

Syn: t-bar.

BASELINE, n.- Real or imagined line, established by the writer, on which the letters rest.

- Ascending baseline, adj.- Baseline rising from left margin to a higher right margin finish.

- Descending baseline, adj.- Baseline descending from left margin to a lower right margin finish. An individual word may also have a descending baseline.
- Concave Baseline, adj.- Baseline which droops in the middle then returns to the original starting point.
- Convex Baseline, adj.- Baseline which arches in the middle then returns to the original starting point.

BASIC LETTER FORM, n. - Essential elements of a letter simplified by eliminating unnecessary strokes; not always copybook style.

Syn: simplicity.

Ant: Any elaboration of standard form.

BEAT, n.- Monotonous repetition of downstroke pressure to produce a stiff, overly controlled picture.

Syn: Monotony.

Ant: Symmetry, Rhythm.

BEGINNING STROKE, n.- Any stroke starting a letter or word. May be straight, curved, flourished, long or short.

Syn: Initial. Lead-in.

BINDING, n.- (European) Connection between letters.

Syn: Connective.

BLIND ANALYSIS, n.- Analysis attempted without personal data of the writer. e.g., age, sex, handedness, education etc. Having no case history.

BI-ZONAL, bi-ZONE-al, adj.- Letters or forms occupying two zones. i .e. b,d,g,h,j,k,l,p,q,t,y,z.

BLOB, blawb, n.- Dark spot with in the ductus produced by accumulation of ink or lint. When spots appear consistently throughout the writing, may be associated with pastosity or hesitations.

Syn: Dots

Ant: clear ductus

BLOT, blah t, n.- Accidental spot or stain on the paper caused by superfluous flow of ink.

Syn. Blob, splotch.

BLUNT STROKE, n.- Thick stroke that ends abruptly often with heavy pressure.

Syn: Clubbed stroke. Squared terminal.

Ant : Feathered or pointed stroke.

BODY OF WRITING, n.- Content of a written page excluding salutation, date, signature etc.

Syn: Text.

BRAIN WRITING, n.- (Wm Preyer MD) Writing affected by stimulation to the limbic system of the brain, the source of emotion. His subsequent research showed correlation of the same neuromuscular impulses between brain and hand may also be present in cases of trauma between the brain and other parts of the body, e.g. the teeth or feet, proving that writing is, in fact, a function of the brain.

Syn: Handwriting. Mouthwriting. Footwriting.

BREAK, BRAK, n.- Gap in ductus, produced by mental hesitation, lapse of thought, pause to cross a t or dot an i, rest after a syllable.

Syn. Hesitation. Hiatus. Pause.
Ant. Connectedness. Continuity.

BRIDGE - BRIJ, n.- Horizontal or diagonal connective between two letters.
Syn: Connecting link. (illustration?)

BUCKLE - BUCK-L, n.- Loop on the letter k. (illustrate)

CALIX - KA-lix, n.- Deep garland shaped like a tulip blossom.

CALLIGRAPHY - ka-LIG-r a-fee, n.- Writing style using specially designed nibs to create a thicker/thinner stroke and thus an artistic picture.
Syn: Beautiful handwriting.

CAPITAL - KAP-i-t a l, adj.- Upper case letters used in writing or printed, to begin a sentence, as a proper name or initials. Distinguished from lower case letters by size and form.

CAPRICE - Ka-PREES, n.- (Nezos, Bri t.) Playful scribblings made during concentration on something else.
Syn: Doodles.

CAREFUL - KARE-ful, adj.- (Graphometry) - Painstaking, Slow writing, with attention to detail of form rather than content.

CASE HISTORY - KASE HIS-tre, n.- Necessary collection of personal data about the writer enabling the analyst to give the client a more accurate analysis. Personal data includes age, sex, handedness, education, etc.

CENTRIFUGAL MOVEMENT - Sen-TRIF-u-gal, adj.- (Hearns) Counter-clockwise garland motion moving away from the center of the letter and away from the body of the writer. May be found in all three zones. Syn: Enrollment, curling.
Ant: Simplicity.
(Illustration)

CENTRIPETAL MOVEMENT - Sen-TRIP-a-t al, adj.- (Hearns) Clockwise arcade motion moving toward the center of the letter. Enrollment of the stroke in an arched movement that comes back toward the body. May be found in all three zones.
Syn: Enrollment, curling.
Ant. Simplicity (illustration)

CHANNELIZATION - chan-el-i-ZA-shun, n.- (Nezos) Left to right pressure along the horizontal ductus rather than on the normal down pressure.
Syn. Displaced Pressure.

CHARACTER DIAGRAM - KAR-ak-ter DI-a-gram, n.- (Wittlich) Name given to the circular chart developed by Dr. Bernard Wittlich and used in his measurement method.
Syn: Wittlich Diagram

CHARACTERISTIC - Kar-ak-ter-IS-tik, n.- (Document Examination) Distinguishing writing feature which alerts the

Document Examiner to identify a specific writer.

Syn: Feature. Factor.

CHECKER TWO - CHEK-er Two, n.- (C. Cole) A specific style of numeral two (2) often used by those who work with numbers.

(Illustration)

CHIMNEY - CHIM-nee, n. (Trillat) - A “river” of space separating left and right sections of text produced by lack of coordination between the eyes. Path of space indicates where the text passes from visual field of one eye to the other.

CHIROGRAPHY - ki-RO-graf-ee, n. Artistic or picturesque style of handwriting.

Syn: Penmanship

CHOPPED- adj. (Hearns) Disconnected upstrokes and downstrokes,

Syn: Disconnected. Decomposed.

Ant: Continuity.

CIPHER - SI-fer, n. - (Webster) A combination of symbolic letters such as the intricately woven initials of a name ; a monogram.

- (2.) (Document Examination) Individual letters or numbers substituted for the alphabet used in cryptography.

CLARITY - KLAR-i-t ee, n. - Clean ductus, legible script, orderly form and arrangement.

Syn: Legibility.

CLASS CHARACTERISTIC - KLASS kar-ak-ter-IS-t ik, n.- (Document Examination) Style common to a specific group.

Syn: Group style.

CLUB - KLUHB, adj.- (Cole) Blunt final or t-bar with one end thicker than the other.

Syn: Blunt final.

Ant: Needle -like, sharp pointed.

CLUSTER - KLUS-ter, n.- (C. Cole) Two or more writing factors grouped together to give a psychological interpretation. Such groups appearing repeatedly in a writing sample serve to confirm a behavior.

Syn: Combination, complex.

CODE WRITING - KODE writing, n.- Script using abbreviations symbols and in which the context is expected to be read only by writer.

Syn: Speed writing. Shorthand. Personal code.

Ant: Copybook.

COLLATION - ko-LA-shun, n.- (Document Examination) Critical comparison of writing features in side-by-side exemplars.

COLLECTED STANDARDS - ko-LEC-ted STAN-dard s, n. (pl) (Document Examination) Writing samples taken from the day-to-day business or personal affairs and supplied to a Document Examiner for analysis purposes.

Syn: Known exemplars.

Ant: Questioned documents.

COLOR - KOL-ar, n. - Alternate light and dark pressure enhancing picture value of writing.
Syn: Shading. Tonal quality.
Ant: Flat. Light pressure.

COLORED INSTRUMENTS - (R.Cole) Pens or inks used habitually by writers as an expression of their personalities.

COMPENSATORY - kom-PEN-sa-tor-ee, adj.- Overdevelopment of one zone in order to compensate for underdevelopment of another zone.
Syn: Disproportionate.
Ant: Proportionate.

COMPLEX - KOM-plex, n. - (Saudek) Group of writing factors habitually used together. Combinations may vary from writer to writer.
Syn: Cluster.

COMPLICATED - KOM-p li-ca-ted, adj. - Unnecessary strokes added to standard letter form.
Syn: Embellished, elaborated.
Ant: Simple.

COMPRESSED WRITING - kom-PREST, adj.- Reduced horizontal spacing in relation to MZH.
Syn: Cramped. Squeezed. Narrow. Retraced.
Ant: Open, wide, looped.

CONCAVE BASELINE - kon-KAVE,adj.- Baseline that droops in the middle of the line, then returns to the original level.
Syn: Sagging baseline
Ant: Straight base line. Convex baseline

CONCEALED STROKE - kon-SEEL-d Stroke, n.- Stroke superimposed on a previous stroke.
Syn: Cover stroke. Retraced stroke.
Ant: Open stroke. Loop. (illustration)

CONGRUENT SIGNATURE - KON-gru-n t SIG-na-chur, n. (C. Cole) Similar writing style in both signature and body of writing.
Syn: Consistent writing style.
Ant: Deviation in writing styles.

CONNECTEDNESS - kon-NEK-t ed-nes, n.- Degree to which letters are joined by continuous movement without lifting the pen. Words may be joined, or i dot s, t bars may be joined to the next let t e r.
Syn: Continuity. (illustration)

CONNECTION - kon-NEK-shun, n. - (Document Examination) Stroke joining two adjacent letters.
Syn: Connecting link. Ant: Disconnection.

CONNECTIVE FORM - ko-NEK-tiv form, n.- Distinctive form joining letters and parts of letters. See: arcade, angle, double bow, filiform, garland, sacre couer, square, thread.
Syn: Connective link. Connective.

CONSISTENCY - kon-SIST-en-see, n.- Repeated appearance of similar patterns or letter form in one writing sample. May be monotonous repetition or rhythmic consistency.

Syn: Regularity. Rhythm. Monotony.

Ant: Fluctuation.

CONSONANT - KON-so-nant, n.- Non-vowel letters in the English alphabet.

Syn: b,c,d,f,g,g,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,w,x,y,z.

Ant: vowels.

CONTINUITY - kon-tin-00-i-tee, n. - Degree of connectedness within the writing.

Syn: Sentence or word impulse. (Saudek)

Ant: Break. Letter impulse.

CONTRACTION - kon-TRAK-shun, n.- Little spacing between letters and words produced by cramped flexor muscles. Retraced or narrow ovals and loops.

Syn: Compressed, narrow.

Ant: Release rhythm, free movement.

CONTRACTION/RELEASE - kon-TRAK-shun/re-LEESE, v.- Pattern of varied pressure corresponding to the rhythm of muscular tension versus release.

Syn: Rhythm

Ant: Disrhythm

CONTROL - kon-TROL, n. - Degree of muscular control shown in regulated letter size and form, careful t-cross and i dot placement. Consistently even spacing.

Syn: Consistent.

Ant: Fluctuation. Flexibility.

CONVEX BASELINE - kon-VEKS, adj.- Baseline that arches in the middle and returns to original level.

COPPERPLATE - kop-per-PLATE, ADJ. Delicate writing style of the late 1800s.

Syn: Spencerian.

DECISION LINE - d e-CIZ-zhun line, n. (Graphometry) Imaginary line across the top of MZ to denote its evenness.

DECOMPOSED WRITING - de-com-POZD, adj.-(Hearns) Upstrokes and downstrokes are disconnected or incomplete.

Syn: Disconnection, fragmented form, fractured.

Ant: Continuity, standard form.

DENSE WRITING - DENS, adj. - Words, lines and letters spaced so closely together as to give an effect of a single mass.

Syn: Compressed, crowded, compact.

Ant: Loose arrangement, freedom of movement.

DEPTH - DEPth, n. - Pressure, the third dimension of writing. Creates an embossing on the back of the paper.

Syn. Heavy Pressure

Ant. Lack of pressure.

DESCENDING BRIDGE -de-SEND-ing BRIJ, - n.- (Hearns) Downstroke connecting the following letter without touching the baseline.

Syn: Poor letter form. Disrhythm.

Ant: Standard form. Cadence.

DESCENDING BASELINE - de-SEND-ing, adj. - Baseline progresses consistently downward from the left margin to the right margin.

Syn. Downslant of baseline.

Ant. Even or upslant of baseline.

DEXTERITY, - deks-TAR-i-tee, n.- Manual or finger adroitness. Ability of fine motor muscles to execute with agility, speed and precision. Strength of fingers is secondary.

Syn. Finger agility.

Ant. Clumsy.

DIACRITIC - d i-a-CRI-tic, n.-

DIACRITICAL MARK - adj, - (Roman) A sign added to a letter to distinguish it from a similar one or to give it a particular phonetic value. (Graph.) Added element necessary to complete a letter such as an i dot, a t-bar and certain accent marks.

DIAGONAL - d i-AG-on-a l - n.- A straight stroke that moves obliquely from left to right. Often found in lead-in strokes, capitals and bizonal upstrokes.

DICTATED STANDARD - DIC-ta-ted, adj.- (Document Examination) Sample prepared on request for the purpose of comparing with a questioned document.

Syn: Requested sample.

Ant: Questioned document.

DIMENSION - di-MEN-shun, n.- A measurable property of writing factors. See: Length, Width, Depth.

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DIMINISHING LETTERS - de-MIN-i-shing, adj.- Words or letters that become smaller in size as they progress. A factor of thread writing.

Ant: Enlarging.

(illustration)

DIRECTION - di-REK-sh un, n. - Movement. Normal western writing standard is from left to right, attributed to preference for right handedness. Some Eastern countries often use right to left movement. Others use writing that moves from top to bottom vertically.

Syn: Writing movement.

DIRECTIONAL CHANGE - di-REK-shun-al chanj, n. - (Document Examination) Modification of ductus, i.e.; gradual change in curves, angles, retracing.

DIRECTIONAL PRESSURE - di-REK-shun-al Pres-yur, n. -(Hearns) Pressure applied in a left to right direction as opposed to the normal heavier downstroke/light upstroke pressure.

Syn: Displaced pressure.

DISCONNECTED WRITING - d is-con-NEK-ted - adj.- Absence of strokes which normally link letters in cursive writing. Printing is disconnected, but is judged differently from cursive.

Syn: Air bridge, breaks between letters.
Ant: Continuity.

DISINTEGRATION- dis-in-te-GRA-shun, n.- Fragmentation of letter or word. Letters break down into illegible form.

Syn: Decomposed, fragmentation.
Ant: Copybook or legible form.

DISJOINTED WRITING - dis-JOYN-ted, adj.- Without connection or detached entity. Each letter is a
Syn: Decomposed, fragmented.
Ant: Continuity, connected.

DISPLACED PRESSURE - dis-PLAS-ed- PRESS-ure, n.- Pressure exerted on horizontal plane or on upstrokes, contrary to standard form. Energy directed into indirect channels either consciously or unconsciously.
Syn: Lateral pressure. Channelization.
Ant: Pressure on downstrokes.

DISPLACEMENT - dis-PLAS-ment, n.- Extension of letter or part of a letter into a zone when it normally belongs in another zone.
Syn: Jump-up letters, sagging MZ letters, excessive initials or finals.
Ant: Even baseline. Even MZH.

DISPUTED DOCUMENT - dis-PU-t ed DOC-u-ment, n.- (Document Examination) A document under scrutiny.
Syn: Questioned Document.
Ant: Known exemplar.

DISRHYTHM - dis-RITH-m, n.- Lack of balance and harmony. Impaired writing impulse in form, spacing, movement.
Syn: Inconsistency. Inharmonious distribution of pressure, space.
Ant: Rhythm. Coordination.

DISTURBED - dis-TURB-ed, adj.- Poor ductus. Tremor, fuzzy or serrated strokes.
Syn: Hesitations. Ant: Smooth ductus.

D'NEALIAN ALPHABET - de-NEE-li-an AL-fa-b et, n.- One of several Simplified form school copy styles taught in schools in the U.S. with few embellishments.
(Illustration)

DOCUMENT - DOC-u-ment, n.- (Document Examination) Any material, original writing or official paper containing a meaning or message that acts as evidence.
Syn: Deed, will, contract, etc.

DOCUMENT EXAMINER - DOC-u-ment ex-AM-i-ner, n.- (Doc. Ex) One who scientifically examines signatures and /or documents to determine their authenticity. Trained in forensic sciences, including analysis of papers and inks.
Syn: Questioned document examiner, handwriting expert.

DOMINANT MOVEMENT - DOM-i-nant MOOV-ment, n. - Strongest Speed and direction of writing.

DOMINANT TRAIT - DOM-i-nant TRAT, n.- (Crepieux-Jamin) - Specific writing fact or which prevails over other factors by its striking nature. Outstanding form and frequency of use subordinates other present factors.
Counter-Dominant - (Saudek) A trait that stands out as a contradiction to all other interpretive factors.
DOODLES - DOO-d les, n.- A record of the unconscious brain in marks, designs, figures, patterns or drawings. Mechanical, half conscious release of surplus mental energy in pencil play while the conscious mind is occupied elsewhere.
Syn: Scribbles, symbols, doodling.
Ant: Writing, printing.

DOT - DART, n.- (Roman) The smallest unit initiating all writing movement. Sometimes scattered throughout a writing, signifying an interruption, stop, rest.
Syn: Point, period, adjunct to i and j.

DOUBLE BOW - DUB-ble BO, n.- (Jacoby) A type of connective link wherein an arcade is followed by a garland then by another arcade. Found most often in m or n, especially in loose writing.
Syn: Double curve, s-link
(Illustration)

DOUBLE CURVE - DUB-b le CURV, n.- (Saudek) - Connective link seldom appearing in its pure form. Letters m, n and u are rounded both above and below. An erosion of form which constitutes a type of thread formation.
Syn: Double bow, s-link.
Ant: Copybook form.

DOUBLE JOINED - DUB-ble JOYN-ed, v.- (Nezos) - Ovals o and a are firmly closed; the stroke first forms a u then goes around a gain to complete the letter.
(Illustration)

DOUGHY - DO-ee, adj.- (Roman) - Soft, thick ductus, the result of a relaxed manipulation of pen and copious ejection of ink.
Syn: Pastose.
Ant: Sharp ductus.

DOWNSTROKES - DOWN-strokes, n.- Strokes made with a downward motion in any zone.

DUAL MEANING - DOOL meaning, n.- (Klages) Each expressive movement in handwriting may be interpreted in both positive and negative sense according to its strength or weakness.

DUCTUS - DUK-tus, n.- (German) - Basic course of the recorded stroke on the writing surface.
Syn: Stroke, track, line, course.

DYNAMICS - dy-NAM-iks, n.- Vigorous, spontaneous driving shown in pressure and left to right movement Speed and contribute to dynamic writing.
force rhythm

DYSLEXIA, - dis-LEX-ia, n.- (Sassi) - Brain dysfunction manifesting as a learning disability for language, i.e., reading, spelling and writing. Often manifests as mirror writing.
Adj. Dyslexic, dis-LEX-ik.

ECONOMY OF SCRIPT - e-CON-o-me, adj.- Lack of embellishment or fullness.

Syn: Simplicity.

Ant: Elaboration. Embellishment. Ornamentation. Originality.

ELABORATION - e-lab-or-A-shun, n.- Any addition to copybook standard not needed as part of the basic letter form.

Syn: Embellishment. Enrichment. Ornamentation. Extraneous strokes. Ant: Simplicity. Economy of script.

ELASTICITY - e-las-TIS-i-tee, n.- a resilient element of writing movement. Consistent size, pressure and spacing of MZ letters provides healthy buoyancy to the writing.

Syn: Flexibility.

Ant: Regularity. Monotony.

ELLIPTICAL LOOP - n. (Hearns) - Oblong UZ and LZ loops with rounded ends.

Syn: Copybook loops.

Ant: Angled loops.

EMBELLISHMENT - Strokes added to standard copybook form.

Syn: Ornamentation. Elaboration. Enrichment.

Ant: Simplicity.

EMPHASIS - Attention drawn to a stroke, letter or word using sudden enlargement or heavier or noticeably lighter pressure. diminishing of size.

Syn: Underlining. Embellishment.

Ant: Regularity.

EMBOSSING- Indentation of the paper caused by excessive pressure. Results may be felt with the fingers on the back of the writing page.

Syn:

Ant: Evenness of pressure.

EMPIRICAL (Webster) An opinion originating in or based on personal observation or experience, usually unproved by scientific research.

Syn: Personal observation.

Ant: Scientifically proved

ENDING STROKES – Final stroke of a letter or word.

Syn: Finals.

ENRICHMENT - Additional strokes to copybook standard.

Syn: Embellishment. Elaboration in slant, pressure, originality, style. Ornamentation.

Ant: Simplicity.

EXTENDED WRITING - A sample of writing more than the required material for analysis. Two or more pages or a series of communications.

EXTENSION - A measurable quantity with in a writing.

- Horizontal expansion in a left to right direction.

- Vertical extension of UZ or LZ loops from baseline up or baseline down.

Syn: UZ or LZ loops.

Ant:

EXTENSOR - adj. (Anatomical) - Muscles controlling the release movement in writing. Fingers extend in upward or rightward motion, thus moving the writing instrument away from the writer.

Ant: Flexor muscles.

EXTROVERT (extravert) (Webster) - One whose attention and interests are predominantly directed outside the self. A Jungian psychology term.

Syn: Social. People oriented.

Ant: Introvert. (n.) Introspective. (adj .)

FACTOR- Individual part of letter or word that can be measured and analyzed.

Syn. - Feature. Item. Entity.

Ant.

FEATURE - Graphological arrangement, form or movement that can be measured, analyzed and interpreted into a personality trait or action.

Syn. Factor. Item. Entity.

Ant.

FEATHERING - Normally pressured stroke that thins and fades.

Syn. Thready. Lessening pressure.

Ant: Firm final stroke.

FELON'S CLAW - n.

(Illustration)

FIGURE EIGHT - Continuously flowing stroke in the construction of f, g, s .

Syn. Fluency.

Ant. Copybook form.

FILIFORM - adj.- (Roman) - Cursive writing that trails off into a lack of form. Particularly noticeable in m, n and h.

Syn. Thready. Diminishing. Feathering.

Ant. Clear form.

FINAL - Stroke or flourish at the end of a letter or word.

Syn. Ending stroke.

Ant. Initial stroke.

FIXED SIGN - Term for a behavioral meaning attached to a specific letter form. First introduced by Abbe Hippolyte Michon in mid-1800s.

Syn. Stroke-trait. Trait-stroke. Atomistic.

Ant. Holistic .

FLAME-SHAPED LOOPS - n. Loops pointed at the top giving the UZ shape of a candle flame.

Syn.

Ant.
(illustration.)

FLEXIBILITY - n. (Roman) - Form and movement producing elastic, pliant coordination in the writing. Graceful suppleness.

Syn. Fluency.

Ant. Rigidity. Stiff forms.

FLEXOR adj. (Anatomical) - Muscle controlling the contraction movement for downward or leftward motion which directs the writing instrument leftward toward the writer.

Syn: Tension. Contraction. Ant. Extensor muscle.

FLOURISH - n. (Roman) – Non-structural decorative strokes added to the standard letter form.

Syn. Embellishment. Exaggeration. Irrelevant accessory.

Ant. Simplicity.

FLUCTUATION - n.-(Roman) Alternate changes of direction, position or condition. May appear in size, slant, space or pressure.

Syn. Awkward.

Ant. Fluency. Flexibility.

FLUENCY - n.(Roman) - Characteristic in which every successive part flows freely into the next.

Syn. Connectedness. Flexibility. Continuity, Smoothness.

Ant. Awkward. Disconnected.

FOOT WRITING - n. Writing produced by holding the pen in the toes in cases of disability of arms, hands or fingers.

Syn.

Ant. Normally produced writing with hands.

FORENSIC - adj. - (Webster) - Belonging to or used in a court of law. Usually evidence produced for argument in document examination.

Syn. Legal evidence. Ant.

FORGERY -n.- (Document Examination) A non-genuine document issued with the intent to defraud. The act, often criminal in nature, of altering, falsifying or counterfeiting writing, especially signatures.

Syn. False document. Spurious.

Ant. Known exemplar.

FORM - n. Shape of letters, punctuation or other writing factors which create a unique style. Variations are infinite.

Syn. Copybook.

Ant. Formless. Awkward. Breakdown of letters.

FORM LEVEL - n. (Roman) Esthetic quality of writing pattern judged from the overall picture of the writing.

Syn. Ant.

FORM NIVEAU - (Klages) - Esthetic level of writing.

Syn: Form Level. Harmony. Rhythm

Ant: Disharmony. Awkward picture value.

FORMAL PATTERN - n. Writing or printing which uses precise form. Usually used for formal documents or where the picture value is important.

Syn. Affected writing. Non-spontaneous.

Ant. Free flowing. Fluent.

FRAGMENTATION - n. (Roman) - Incomplete strokes leaving gaps or splits in letter form. Breakup of graphic units, words, letters or individual strokes caused by speed, carelessness or illness.

Often found in printing.

Syn. Disconnected. Disjointed. Non-integrated.

Ant. Smooth. Fluent. Connected. Form level.

FREEHAND IMITATION - n.- (Document Examination) Fraudulent writing. Attempt to duplicate letter form, but also overall style and personal characteristics of another person's writing.

Syn. Forgery. Simulation. Ant. Tracing.

FULLNESS - n. (HAWU) UZ, LZ loops or MZ ovals which are overdeveloped beyond prescribed copybook standards. Standard equals: UZ and LZ loops should be one half the MZH. Middle Zone ovals are equal in fullness to MZH.

Syn. Enlarged loops. Excessive roundness.

Ant. Narrowness. Linear strokes.

GARLAND - A basic connective form. Shaped like a cup, the downstroke of a letter is connected to the following upstroke with a curve open at the top. Variations include:

- Broad garland - Wider than the MZ is high.
- Narrow garland - Deep and narrow garland. Sometimes called "Calix"
- Looped Garland - Downstrokes overlap the upstrokes with a loop.

GESTALT (German) Configuration of the whole picture of the writing, as opposed to details of individual factors. (Not to be confused with the psychological theory of Gestalt.)

Syn: Wholistic. Structure. Picture value.

Ant: Atomistic. Trait-for-a-stroke.

GLOBAL GRAPHOLOGY- (IGAS (?)) Analysis of the entire writing, which takes into consideration arrangement, form, movement, pressure.

Syn: Gestalt. Wholistic

Ant: Atomistic. Trait-for-a-stroke.

GOTHIC ALPHABET - n. (German) - Germanic alphabet based on the east Germanic alphabet of the Goths. (Illustration)

GRAPHIC INDICATOR - n. (HAWU) Writing feature offering possible behavioral interpretation, such as a stroke, mark, movement, spatial relationship, etc.

Syn: Factor. Feature. Cluster. Entity. Element.

Ant: Wholistic. Gestalt. Global.

GRAPHOANALYSIS - n. (IGAS) - Copyright term for handwriting analysis used by the International GraphoAnalysis Society.

(Leave five inches for display of IGAS trait list)

GRAPHODYNE - n.- (Roman) Mechanical device for registering changes in speed and pressure. Invented by Dr. Klara Roman, 1931.

GRAPHOGRAM - n.- (Wolff) - Any pattern resulting from applying a writing instrument to a surface.

Syn: Writing. Drawing. Doodles. Printing. Scribbles. Expressive movement.

GRAPHOLOGY - n.- (Webster) The study of handwriting for the purpose of character analysis. (Allport and Vernon) "the art (and perhaps the embryo science) of determining qualities of personality from script." Derives from Greek "Grapho" meaning "I write," and "Logos," meaning language, word, or statement. A word coined by Abbe Hippolyte Michon in 1872.

Syn: Handwriting Analysis.

GRAPHOLOGIST - n.- (Webster) A specialist in graphology.

Syn: Grapho-Analyst. Handwriting Analyst. Handwriting Expert.

GRAPHOMETER - n.- (Roman) Instrument used to measure the angle of a slant.

Syn: Emotional gauge. Slant gauge. Measuring Guide.

GRAPHOMETRICAL - adj.- (Wolff) Method of measuring signatures of a questioned document. Outlined in "Diagrams of the Unconscious," the proportion of spacing in one's signature is the same at all times no matter what the size of the writing.

GRAPHOMETRY - n.- (Teliard) French technique of handwriting analysis. Measurements and assignments are given to proportional values of writing variables such as slant, size, etc.

GRAPHOTHERAPY - n.- (De Ste. Colombe) Technique to change the writing style in anticipation of changing the writer's attitude or behavior. Used in counseling.

Syn: Script change. Writing therapy.

GUIDED SIGNATURE - n.- (Document Examination) Signature executed while the writer's hand, arm or writing implement is supported or guided by another.

Syn: Assisted Signature.

HAIRSTROKE - adj.- (Hearns) Fine stroke caused by lack of pressure.

Syn: Thready. Air stroke.

Ant: Thick pressured stroke.

HANDEDNESS - n.- (Handedness) Preferred use of one hand over the other. Dominant hand is superior in its motor aptitudes, quickness, muscular strength, manual skill and tactile discrimination.

HANDPRINTING - n.- A printing style.

Syn: Block printing. Manuscript. Formal lettering.

Ant: Cursive writing.

HANDWRITING - n.- (Roman) Graphic equivalent of speech. System of letters, words and symbols to communicate thoughts, ideas and messages done with an instrument held in the hand.

Syn: Cursive. Printing.

Ant: Mouth writing. Foot writing.

HANDWRITING ANALYSIS - n.- Art/ Science of analyzing written communication for the purpose of personality evaluation.

Syn: Graphology.

HANDWRITING EXPERT - n.- Analyst qualified by the courts to testify as an expert in his field, usually a Document.

Syn: Document Examiner. Graphologist.

HANDWRITING IDENTIFICATION EXPERT - n.- (Doc. Ex.) Common name for a Document Examiner.

HANDWRITING SAMPLE - n.- Any writing offered for analysis. Ideal sample is written on unlined paper without knowledge that it is to be analyzed. Two or more pages written at different times gives the analyst enough writing to prepare a thorough analysis. Spontaneous writing, nothing copied, provides a natural relaxed sample that reveals the true personality.

Syn: Exemplar (Doc.Ex.) Specimen.

HARMONY - n.- Free and continuous flow of writing movement producing a pleasing picture. Lack of extremes or imbalance of arrangement and form.

Syn: Form level. Picture value. Rhythm. Style. Ant: Disharmony. Awkward picture value.

HARPOON - n.- Final stroke that curves sharply to the left producing a hooked formation.

Syn: Shark's tooth. Hook.

(illustration)

HEAVY WRITING - adj.- Pressure. Broad, dark strokes usually caused by pressure of the writing instrument on the paper.

Syn: Pressure.

Ant: Refined. Thin. Thread.

HESITATIONS - n.- Interruption of rhythm. Breaks or blobs within the ductus indicating a momentary stop in movement. Tiny retraces along the ductus or dots that have no practical use also are indications of hesitations.

Syn: Dot. Blob. Retrace. Break.

Ant: Continuity. Rhythm.

HIATUS - n.- (Roman) Interruption of the continuity of writing movement as shown by a gap or break within the ductus.

Syn: Air-bridge. Air-stroke. Gap.

Ant: Continuity. Rhythm.

HIEROGLYPHICS n.- (Roman) Pictorial writing created by the early Egyptians. "Sacred signs" suspected of containing the secret wisdom of the magician priests.

HIS MARK - n. (Document Examination) Authenticating mark used by illiterates, usually an x.

Syn: X mark.

HOLISTIC - adj.- Functional unity between parts and the whole. The whole personality is revealed and corroborated within the zonal interpretation.

Syn: Gestalt graphology.

Ant: Atomistic graphology.

HOLOGRAM - n. (Document Examination) Document completely handwritten and signed by one person.

Syn: Holographic document.

HOLOGRAPHIC - adj.- (Document Examination) Term designating document handwritten by one person, as in "Holographic Will."

Syn. Autograph. Hologram. Ant: Forgery.

HOOK - An involuntary curve or angular formation often found as an initial or terminal stroke, usually in MZ or UZ.

Syn: Shark's tooth. Harpoon.

(illustration)

HORIZONTAL EXPANSION - (Psychogram) Extension of writing from left to right; a measureable expanse of twenty units including letter, space or punctuation mark.

(illustration.)

HUMP - n.- (Graphometry) - Arch, wedge or buckle for executed as part of the word, usually above the baseline.

Syn: Arcade.

IDEOGRAM - n.- (Roman) A picture symbol which suggests more than it pictures. Represents an abstract idea, the concept behind the word, not the word as spoken. A subconscious drawing of an item which serves as a personal symbol to the writer. For example, a piano as part of the signature of Liberace, pianist/showman. Howard Hughes, eccentric millionaire, often unconsciously formed numbers within his writing.

Syn: Cuneiform. Doodle (at times) Hieroglyphic. Sign. Symbol.

IDEOGRAPH - n.- A system of communication using ideograms. Symbols serving as a graphic representation of thought or abstract idea.

Syn: Alphabet. Hieroglyphic. Pictograph. Symbol.

IDIOSYNCRASY n.- Any unusual graphological fact or used consistently by a writer.

I DOT - n.- Diacritic. An important UZ feature which may assume many shapes.

I EMPHASIS - n.- (HAWU) Emphasis of capital letter I by size, pressure or shape as opposed to other capitals in the script.

"I" PRONOUN - n.- Personal Pronoun I, some times referred to as PPI. Variations are the Roman numeral I, the stick I, and the many variations of the standard copybook form.

ILLEGIBLE WRITING - adj.- Deteriorated form caused by speed, carelessness, illness or a reluctance to

communicate. Any part of a letter or word that cannot be deciphered when taken out of context is illegible.

Syn: Fractured writing. Disharmony.

Ant: Legibility

IMITATED SIGNATURE - (document examination) Forgery. A signature written by another person trying to simulate or copy a signature.

Syn: Forgery. Simulated signature.

IMPULSE - n.-

INDENTATIONS - Grooved markings on a pad or blotter used under a writing page. Sometimes used by authorities as a clue for apprehending forgers.

Syn: Embossing.

INFLATED LOOPS - Upper or lower loops expanded to broader than that prescribed by standard copybook form.

INFORMAL EXEMPLAR - A writing sample produced without knowledge that it would be analyzed.

INITIAL STROKES - A stroke which begins the formation of a letter or word.

INTERDEPENDENCE - Mutual dependence of two writing factors which create a third personality trait.

INTERSPACE – Blank space between letters, words or lines of writing.

INTERPRETATION - Process of applying a personality trait to handwriting factors or a combination of factors.

IODINE FUMING - A method used by document examiners to bring out invisible inks.

JUMP-UP LETTERS - MZ letters which extend into the upper zone.

KINESTHESIA DEFECT – Inability to experience the sensation of muscular effect. May have significant bearing on speech and writing disorders.

KNOT - Left-tending loop often found in letters t,k,f,p,s, in which the stroke passes leftward beyond the stable axis of the letter.

LARGE WRITING – Writing which reflects a MZ copybook larger than the standard of 3mm.

LATIN (or ROMAN) ALPHABET - A collection of twenty-three letters based on the Etruscan and Greek alphabets. The parent of modern alphabets of Western Europe.

LEFT HANDEDNESS - Use of the left hand as the dominant hand with the right hand playing a secondary role. Some graphological factors are influenced by left handedness and must be interpreted with this in mind.

LEFT SLANT - Downstroke beginning at the left, ending at the right, producing a leftward incline.

LEFT TENDENCIES - Several writing characteristics that create a leftward pattern. May be found in beginning or

ending strokes, loops, margins or partial letters such as t-bar, i dot, k buckle.

LEFT TREND - Same as left tendencies.

LEGIBILITY - Readable, clear writing even when letters or words are taken out of context.

LENGTH - A measurement of writing stroke from end to end, such as beginning or ending strokes, UZ or LZ loops, t-bars, dashes, etc.

LETTER - Standard character which represents a speech sound. Standard alphabet contains twenty-six letters.

LETTER FORM - Standardized form found in copybook samples taught in American schools.

LIBIDO - A psychological term used when interpreting pressure, pastosity and LZ activity. Instinctual drive usually expressed in a sexual manner. The innate energy which stems from biological urges.

LINEAR - Form of writing which appears lean and tall in comparison with MZH. Narrow ovals or loops, angular formations. Usually simplified.

LOGO - Identifying design. Abbreviation of logogram. Identifies a person, company or product.

LONGHAND - Cursive writing, as opposed to shorthand, speed writing or code.

LOOP - Writing formation in UZ and LZ letters in which space is enclosed between upstrokes and downstrokes. Represented in UZ letters b,d,f,h,l,k,t, or in LZ letters f,g,j,p,q,y,z. The letter 'e' may also be classed as a loop.

LOOSE WRITING - Unformed, expanded writing without retracing. Letter form breaks down. Details may be illegible.

LOWER ZONE - Writing area found below the baseline.

LOWER ZONE ELABORATION - Embellished LZ formations. Extra strokes, curls or expansion, both horizontal and vertical. May also include MZ strokes that dip below the baseline.

LOWER ZONE LENGTH - A measurement in mm of the LZ from baseline to the nadir or lowest point.

MANUSCRIPT - A form of print which uses all three zones.

MARGIN - Top, bottom, left and right space on the page which frames the body of writing, typed, written or printed.

- Left Margin - Space between the left edge of the paper and a vertical line drawn between the beginning strokes of the top and bottom lines of writing on the page.
- Right Margin - Space between the right edge of the paper and a vertical line drawn between the end of the top and bottom lines of the writing on the page.

MARGIN DRIFT - Succeeding lines on the page begin or end slightly to the right or left of the line above. The sequence continues down the page in a regular fashion causing the margin to "drift" right or left. Sometimes the

writing “drifts” only in paragraphs and the first line of each new paragraph returns to the original spot on the left margin.

MARK - Any symbol or sign which represents a signature. An X or a cross is generally recognized by courts as an authentic signature, especially if it is witnessed.

MATURE WRITING - Writing that shows above average form level, simplicity, originality and rhythm.

MEAGERNESS - Writing that is thin, compressed and simplified. UZ and LZ loops are less than half the width of MZH, ovals are thin and compressed. Space between letters and words is less than MZH.

MEASURING GUIDE - A device which determines size of zones, horizontal expansion or extent of slant. margins,

MENDED WRITING - Patched or touched up letters, or portions thereof, originally miswritten, in attempt to make the forms more legible.

MIDDLE ZONE - The writing area that encompasses all or a part of every letter in the alphabet. Unizone letters are a,c,e,i,m,n,o, r,s,u,v,w,x, and are found only in the MZ. MZ is measured from the baseline to the top of the unizone letter.

MIDDLE ZONE HEIGHT - Unizonal letters measured vertically from the baseline to the apex of the letters. Normal MZH = 3MM; Ratio of zones is 2:1 :2.(verify this)

MILLIMETER - Unit of measurement for zones. Ratio of zones is 2:1:2. Normal MZH = 3 mm;

MIRROR WRITING - Writing patterns which reverse letter forms as a result of contrary motor orientation. So-called because the writing can be read easily by looking in a mirror.
Synonym: dyslexic writing

MOBILE AXIS - The horizontal part of a letter that moves the writing from left to right. As opposed to stable axis, the downstroke.

MONEY-BAG – Term used by Max Pulver to describe an inflated, oversized lower loop.

MONOTONY - Consistent repetition or excessive regularity of the writing.

MOUTH WRITING - The writing instrument is gripped between the lips or teeth, guiding the pen. Paraplegics sometimes gain great efficiency in this manner.

MOVEMENT - A major premise in handwriting analysis. Involves quality of expansion, coordination, speed, pressure, rhythm.

MUDDINESS - Coarse, untidy and smudged writing. Loops and ovals may be flooded with ink.

NADIR - Lowest point of a letter form.

NARROWNESS - Compressed writing. UZ and LZ loop widths are less than half the MZH. Ovals are thin and compressed. Space between letters and words is less than MZH.

NATIONALITY - Country or origin or ancestry or education. A necessary case history fact. Must be compared with copybook standard of that country rather than American copybook.

NATURAL WRITING - Free-flowing, spontaneous, expressive, alive and unpretentious.

NUMBERS - Ciphers which represent numerical amounts, i.e: 1,2,3. etc. Numbers can also be analyzed and personality traits drawn from their unique formations.

OPINION - A written report from a document examiner. Contains a description of the method of analysis used, the date of the document and an opinion regarding questions involved in the original request from the client.

ORGANIZATION - Quality of balance, rhythm, harmony found in a writing. Includes harmonious arrangement of margins, letter word and line spacing.

ORIGINALITY - Writing which is consistently different from copybook standard without impairing legibility or esthetics.

OVALS - Enclosed spaces, especially of MZ letters found in letters a,b,d,g,o,p,q or added as an embellishment to any other letter.

OVERCONTROL - Monotonous regularity of form and movement.

PENCIL - Writing instrument. Tube of wood or metal made with a graphite center that leaves an erasable mark.

PERIODICITY – Occurrence of rhythmic patterns of downstrokes, loops or other writing features recurring in regular intervals.

PERSONALITY - Behavior and response patterns used by individuals.

PALMER WRITING METHOD - A system of writing taught in American schools, developed by A.N. Palmer, advocating a rapid, plain, unshaded, coarse pen, muscular movement of writing. The method, seldom taught since the 1940s, stressed muscle arm movement and exercises performed with rolling movements of the arm from the shoulder to the wrist. The fingers were to remain passive.
(Writing sample)

PARAPH - A final pen flourish or embellishment incorporated into a signature. An underline or overscroll, dot, cross or other terminal stroke.

PASTINESS - Thick, broad strokes caused by an excess of ink on the writing instrument. Upstroke and downstroke is equally thick and may be measured.

PASTOSITY - Quality of strokes made with a relaxed manipulation of the pen resulting in an excessive flow of ink. Pasty, muddy or blurred strokes with equal thickness of upstroke and downstroke.
Opposite of sharpness.

Syn: Doughy
Ant: Sharp

PATCHED LETTERS - Mended letters. Letters touched up in an effort to improve original copy, to make it more legible or to add an omitted letter.

PATTERN - Arrangement, form and movement of the writing, which presents a specific picture.

PEN - Writing instrument. Originally the word meant "feather." (Latin: penna) applied to the quill pen. Retained over the years to describe any writing tool that creates a permanent ink script. Metal nib pens were invented in the mid-1700s. Ball point pens became popular in the 1940s. Variations of penpoints introduced since then have complicated the judgment of pressure for graphologists.

PENCIL - Writing instrument. Tube of wood or metal made with a graphite center that leaves an erasable mark.

PERIODICITY – Occurrence of rhythmic patterns of downstrokes, loops or other writing features recurring in regular intervals.

PERSONALITY - Behavior and response patterns used by individuals to adapt themselves to their environment.

PERSONAL PRONOUN I - (PPI abbreviation) Capital I which represents the first person singular.

PERSONAL WORTH CHART - Variation of the Roman Psychogram developed by Handwriting Consultants International of San Diego, California.

PICTORIAL WRITING - Writing form that is pleasing to the eye, original and presents an artistic picture. (Illustration)

PICTURE VALUE - Arrangement, form and movement of writing that contains enough originality, rhythm and form level to provide a picture pleasing to the eye.

PRESSURE - the "third dimension" of writing. (Vertical and horizontal are the other two.) Energy applied to writing instrument producing an impression on the paper and revealing embossing on the back. Produces thickness, darkness, sharpness and shading to the writing in varying degrees.

- Primary Pressure - Pen pressure on the writing surface that produces embossing on the back.
- Secondary Pressure - Rhythmic downstrokes which are darker than upstrokes in an obvious pattern.
- Grip Pressure - Force on the writing instrument applied by fingers.

PRESSURE, DISPLACED - Systematic displacement of normal downstroke pressure to horizontal or upstrokes. Lack of balance in tension/release pattern.

PRIMITIVE FORM – Crude writing style often executed by an unskilled or uneducated person. Low form level.

PRINTING - Variation of written communication taught in American schools before cursive writing is taught.

- Manuscript: A disconnected script using all three zones.
- (Illustration)
- Printscript: Similar to manuscript. Taught with simple "circles and sticks" to first and second grade pupils. (Illustration)

- Block Print: Unizonal print used by architects, draft-persons, commercial artists and similar professions.
(Illustration)

PSYCHOGRAM - Circular chart developed by Dr. Klara Roman and George Staempfli to measure forty writing factors as a means to construct a personality profile. Term coined by Hollingsworth in 1922.
(Illustration)

PSYCHOGRAPH - Form of Psychogram developed by Leslie King in 1970s.
(Illustration)

PUNCTUATION - A system to mark pauses, accents or expressive emphasis within writing. Most common are comma, period, question mark, exclamation point, colon and semi-colon.

QUALIFIED EXPERT - An expert witness who has successfully answered questions from the court at testing to his special knowledge. Usually includes questions regarding training, experience and expertise.

QUALIFIED OPINION - Preliminary opinion in which the document examiner reserves the right to change his opinion after he has examined additional evidence.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS – Mathematical computing of trait and syndrome strengths on a numerical scale.

QUESTIONED DOCUMENT - any document, signature or written communication that is questioned regarding its authorship or authenticity. Such documents are often central elements in forgery or fraud cases.

QUESTIONED DOCUMENT EXAMINER - Same as Document Examiner. An analyst schooled in technique of determining the validity of a document. Eschewing personality analysis, document examiners also examine typewriting, erasures, and analysis of papers, inks and other materials needed to provide forensic evidence.

RATIO - Proportional relationship between zones. MZ provides the base. (Norm MZH is 3mm. Normal ratio is 2:1:2 or 6mm:3mm:6mm)
(This needs more research)

REGULARITY - Consistent patterns within writing characterized by symmetry in MZH, slant, pressure, rhythm.

RELEASE - Relief from writing tension by extensor muscles.

REQUEST EXEMPLAR - Writing samples prepared for a questioned document case at the request of law enforcement.

RESULTANTS - Interpretive method contributed by Crepieux-Jamin. An effort to synthesize characteristics by putting two or more together which “results” in a third. Process of deduction providing a deeper dimension of character delineation not ascertained strictly through graphological methods.

RETOUCH - Attempt to improve part of letter or word.
Syn. Patch. Mend.

RETRACE - Stroke which hides a previously executed stroke. Often found in UZ and LZ loops. Closed MZ ovals

may be retraced.

RHYTHM - A complex writing feature reflecting the natural pulse within the writing. Graphologically found in the harmony of the arrangement, form and movement.

- Basic Rhythm - Quality and consistency in unizone letters. Even height, pressure and spacing. Can be detected most easily in the consistent pattern of downstroke pressure.

- Disrhythm - Impaired impulse, disintegrated form. One letter may be formed in several different ways. Uneven spacing, sudden change of direction in slant, uneven baseline, poor proportion between zones.

RIGIDITY – Inflexibility of writing movement seen in stiff strokes, wedges, arches and other braced forms.

RIGHT SLANT - MZ downstrokes and bi-zonal upstrokes that slant rightward to form an angle with the baseline more than 90 degrees.

RIGHT TREND - Arrangement and form have a dominant rightward movement. Final strokes move rightward, margins and spacing are free and right-moving. T bars, i dots fall to the right of the stem.

SACRE COEUR - A style of writing found among convent students, especially in France. Downstroke is retraced, making an angle at the baseline with the following upstroke.

(Illustration)

SAMPLE OF WRITING - Any writing offered for analysis. An ideal sample is one written without knowledge that it would be analyzed. Two or more pages written on unlined paper at least 8 ½ x 11 " with a pen the writer enjoys using. A signature should accompany the ideal writing sample.

SCHOOL MODEL - Standard copybook taught in schools. Each country has its own standard. In America these include Palmer, Zaner Bloser, D'Nealian, New American Cursive, and others.

SCRIBBLES - Aimless and random markings on any surface; playful self-expression with a writing instrument.

Syn: "Doodles." "Graffiti"

SCOPE- Scope of space used in writing, either expanded or compressed.

SCRIPT - Writing, usually cursive writing, but may also refer to manuscript or printscript forms of communication.

SERIF - A fine horizontal or vertical stroke at the beginning or ending of a printed character. Most often used in Calligraphy.

SHADING - Contrasting pressure between thick upstrokes and thin downstrokes or vice versa. Formerly called "Copperplate," the style was developed into an art in the Spencerian style of writing.

SHARK'S TOOTH - A form found most often in the last downstroke of an m, n or h. The downstroke curves leftward giving the appearance of a shark's tooth or "harpoon."

SHARPNESS - Clear edges to the writing stroke. Strokes may be thick or thin and executed with or without pressure. Usually the result of gripping the pen low on the instrument and at a high angle to the paper .

SHARP FORM – Angular writing - Sudden changes in direction produce angles on UZ and LZ loops and in the MZ on m, n, and h.

SIGN - A characteristic within the writing.
Syn: symbol, factor, feature.

SIGNATURE - Autograph, name or symbol used on a legal or personal document to identify the writer. A signature may consist of one or more names depending on the custom of the writer's country. Most people have a formal signature and an informal or casual self-identification such as a nickname.

SIMPLIFICATION - Writing minus non-essential strokes. Elimination of beginning and ending strokes. Streamlined letter form for speed and clarity.

SIMULATION - A method for forging signatures. Freehand drawing in imitation of a model of writing, printing or signature.

SINISTRAL – Mirror writing. Writing from right to left with letters formed in reverse. Most easily read with a mirror.

SIZE - Relative term judged by the size of middle zone. Standard copybook MZH is 3mm or 1 /8 inch. UZ and LZ are measured in proportion to MZH.

SKELETAL WRITING - Scaffolding on which the writing is built. Downstrokes are the basic skeleton or scaffold which are required for clear readability.

SLACK - Loose writing, usually with light pressure. Letter forms break down. Writing has fewer retraced strokes than copybook.

SLANT - Incline of downstrokes or upstrokes as they separate from the baseline.

- Downslant - Downstrokes measured on MZ letters, usually m,n,or h letters that slant left or right at baseline angle.

- Left Slant - Upstrokes or downstrokes that slant more than 90 degrees at the baseline.

- Right Slant - Upstrokes or downstrokes that slant more than 90 degrees at the baseline.

- Upslant - Bi-zonal strokes that begin at the baseline and slant upward. These strokes use the extensor muscles in the hand create strokes that move away from the writer. Upstrokes are interpreted differently from downstrokes.

SLOPE - The slant of the baseline. See baseline.

SLOW WRITING - Careful and deliberate writing, usually rounded, large and monotonous. Diacritics are carefully placed. T bars are controlled and neat. i dots are meticulously placed above the stem.

SMALL WRITING - Writing in which the MZH is 2 mm or less.

SOLDERSTROKE - Stroke made to connect a break in the ductus.
Syn: Patching, Mended.

SPACING - Arrangement of writing on the page; relative spacing of margins, letters, words and lines.

SPASTICITY – Muscular contraction without adequate release. Tension appears in rigid strokes that may bend or jerk in the course of the ductus.

SPECIMEN – Sample of writing. Often done for legal comparison and authentication purposes.

SPEED - Tempo of writing movement. May be affected by writer's nervous temperament, training and/or practice with the writing instrument. Determined by rhythmic pattern, spontaneity, etc.

SPENCERIAN WRITING - A style of writing popular in the late 1800s and noted for its beauty and shading. (illustration)

STABLE AXIS - Downstroke of the writing representing the male symbol. (Mendel) See Axis and Mobile axis.

STAIR-STEP - Appearance of words which start at the baseline but usually slant upward as the letter progresses. By drawing a baseline under each word, the "step" formation up or down is formed.

STANDARD - Writing sample used in Document Examination work that is known to be an authentic piece of writing, signature, etc. The analyst uses this standard to compare against the questioned document. Syn. Exemplar. Known writing.

STROKE - Single writing movement beginning with a dot and continuing as curved or straight until direction is changed. Six basic strokes are: dot, line, curve, hook, circle, loop.

- Final Stroke - Last element that ends a letter, words or diacritic.
- Initial Stroke - First element of letter or word that may be modified or omitted without reducing legibility.

STROKE-TRAIT - Atomistic method of handwriting analysis. Each stroke equates with a personality trait. First developed by Abbe Hyppolyte Michon. Taught by International GraphoAnalysis Society, and used to some extent by most analysts.

STYLE - Any distinctive form or movement that contributes picture value to the writing. Descriptive forms are cursive, printing, artistic, copybook, simplified, elaborated, linear, rounded, etc.

STYLE EVALUATION - A value judgment of the writing picture. Quality given the writing by the analyst based on esthetics.

SUPPORT STROKE - A straight beginning stroke which resembles a prop. Sometimes found within a word as well, as in a t which is separated at the baseline.

SYMBOL - Letter, figure, mark or combination used to designate a specific idea. That which represents something else. Writers used to dealing with money or numbers often "hide" number symbols within their writing.

SYMMETRY – Aesthetic balance of arrangement, form and movement with rhythmic and consistent patterns.

SYNDROME - Cluster or group of graphic characteristics that commonly occur together and can be interpreted as an additional characteristic.

SYNERGY - Coordination of muscular movement. Cooperation of flexor and extensor muscles to achieve tension

and release within the writing.

T-BAR - Diacritic mark which completes letter t.

Syn: T-cross

TACHGRAPHY - Speedwriting. The art of writing with speed and efficiency.

Syn: Code writing; Shorthand.

TALON - Left tending arcade in MZ or LZ.

Syn: Claw

TAPERING - Letters and words which become progressively smaller from left to right.

Syn: Diminished letters

TEMPER TICS - Tiny strokes on t bars or beginning MZ letters.

TENSION - Contraction of flexor muscle revealed in cramped letters, retracing, narrowness of letters and words.

TENSION/RELEASE - Variation in writing pressure and rhythm that corresponds to changes in use of extensor and flexor muscles.

TERMINAL - Ending stroke of a letter or word.

Syn: final

THREAD - A basic connective form. An indistinct, wavy stroke or breaking down of letter form as in m, n, or h. Also diminishing MZH and /or stroke due to lack of pressure.

Syn: "feathering"

- Primary Thread - Diminished pressure of stroke or diminished MZH.

- Secondary Thread - Lack of pressure and form due to speed or carelessness.

TIC - Short, involuntary inflexible stroke at the beginning or end of a letter or word.

Syn: hook; temper-tic.

TIED STROKE - Knot found in letters t,k,f,p.s. In which the left tending stroke passes leftward through the stable axis.

TRACE - Path of the writing instrument.

Syn: Stroke. Ductus.

TRACING - Forgery method. Writing is copied through light paper or carbon onto a fresh sheet.

TRAIT - Behavioral characteristic capable of being analyzed by factors within the writing.

TRAIT-STROKE - Method of analysis. a-trait. Reverse title of "stroke-for-a-trait."

Syn: Atomistic graphology.

TREMOR - Wavering, unsteady or tremulous stroke. Due to lack of muscular control caused by age, illness,

substance abuse or emotional stress and trauma. Most often found in stroke formed by the extensor muscles.

TREND - Sufficient uses of a writing factor to create a consistent pattern. Used most often in left or right trend.

- Left Trend - Arrangement and form have a dominant leftward directional movement. Finals move leftward, margins and space are cramped, diacritics fall left of the stem.
- Right Trend - Arrangement and form have a dominant rightward directional movement. Stroke, margins, spacing are free and right moving, diacritics fall right of stems. Speed often is more than normal.

TRIZONAL LETTERS - Letter f is the only letter that naturally encompasses all three zones.

UNDERSCORING – Line under a signature or other parts to give emphasis.

Syn: Underlining.

UNIFORMITY - Regularity of arrangement, form and /or movement.

Syn: Consistency.

UNIZONAL LETTERS - Letters occupying the middle zone. a,c,e,i,m,n,o,r,s,u,v,w,x.

UPPER ZONE - Area above the middle zone. (See zones)

UPPER ZONE HEIGHT - Measurement of bi-zonal letters. Distance from baseline to apex or highest point of letter.

UPPER ZONE DYNAMICS - Left to right movement in UZ exerted with pressure and length to give emphasis.

UPSTROKE - Part of letter that proceeds upward and outward from the writer.

VARIABLES - Variation from copybook standard. Usual variables may be found in size, slant, speed, space, form and pressure.

VERTICAL WRITING - Writing in which the upstrokes range less than five degrees right or left of a 90-degree angle to baseline.

VOWELS - Basic letters which give each syllable its dominant sound and differentiation: a,e,i,o,u.

WIDTH - Width of a letter in relation to its height. MZ letters are “normal” or standard if they are as wide as they are high. UZ and LZ loops are normally half the width of MZH.

WITTLICH DIAGRAM - Circular chart devised by Dr. Bernard Wittlich for the purpose of measuring, plus or minus, thirty-two graphological factors. A personality profile can be synthesized from the measured results.
(Illustration)

WORD SPACE - Distance between words. Normal distance is the same as MZH. May be crowded, normal or wide.

WRITING – System of communication. Visible marks made by a mechanical instrument creating a collection of

forms.

Syn. Script.

ZANER-BLOSER - Writing style commonly taught in American schools.

(Illustration)

ZONES - Division of writing into three separate areas, Upper, Middle and Lower. Concept developed in 1920s by Max Pulver, a Swiss graphologist.

- Upper Zone - The part of each letter that reaches above the middle zone. Six letters and the letter f extend into the upper zone.
- Middle Zone - The area that contains a part or all of each letter in the alphabet. Thirteen letters are exclusively middle zone letters. Parts of thirteen others are included in the middle zone.
- Lower Zone - The part of each letter that extends below the middle zone. Six letters and the f extend into the lower zone.