

# Handwriting Tells All...Or Does It?

Sharpie®

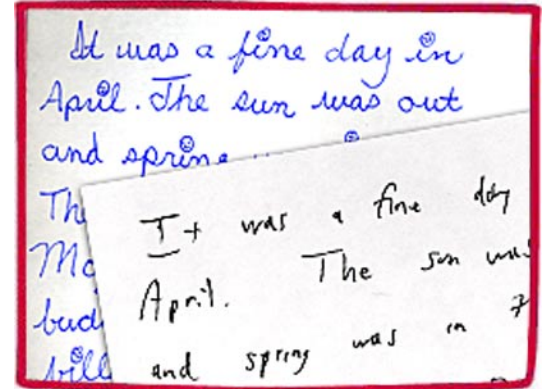
A light-hearted lesson about  
graphology (handwriting analysis)

**Grade:** 7-8

**Time Needed:** 1 class

## Summary

This is a light-hearted lesson about graphology (handwriting analysis). What does handwriting reveal about a person? Can you guess someone's personality traits by looking at his or her handwriting? What does it mean if you make little smiley faces over your i's? What if you write really small or really big? Is good handwriting the ticket to a good life? Students will learn basic handwriting analysis and have fun applying it to handwriting samples. They can also take a look at their own handwriting and decide what they think about graphology as a tool to understanding people.



## Student Background

Students should be proficient at cursive handwriting.

## Objectives

- Students will be introduced to graphology (handwriting analysis)
- Students will create a handwriting sample and apply basic handwriting analysis

## Vocabulary

graphology (handwriting analysis)

## Materials

- writing paper
- Sharpie® Markers (red, blue, black, green and purple)
- student handout: A Taste of Handwriting Analysis (at end of lesson)

## Resources

- general info about handwriting analysis: <http://www.handwriting.org>
- FAQs about handwriting analysis: <http://www.myhandwriting.com/FAQ/>
- writing samples and examples of analysis: <http://graphicinsight.co.za/writingsamples.htm>
- *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Handwriting Analysis* by Shelia Lowe

## Intro & Discussion

What does handwriting reveal about a person? Can you guess someone's personality traits by looking at his or her handwriting? Introduce graphology, the science of handwriting analysis. Graphologists claim that a handwriting sample reveals many things about that person's character and personality. Graphologists believe that handwriting is like a "psychic photograph." Everything about you and everything you have ever experienced is recorded in the way you write. What do you think?

Make available several writing samples and analysis (see resource list for online links). Have students examine and discuss them. You may want to have them look at the samples first without the analysis and ask them to describe the person who wrote them. Then compare their answers with the handwriting expert's opinion.

To become an expert graphologist requires many years of study, but a brief exploration of handwriting analysis can generate an entertaining and lively discussion. Have students do the following activities and encourage them to discuss their opinions openly and with humor.

## Activity 1: Your Ink Color Says You Are...

Offer each student a choice of blue, black, red, green and purple Sharpie® Markers. Have them copy the sentences (or any paragraph of your choice) below in cursive. Ask them to use their everyday handwriting and not get self-conscious.

"It was a fine day in April. The sun was out and spring was in the air. The birds were singing Mozart. The trees were leafing out twenty-dollar bills. So I left my house without my socks and headed downtown for some cotton candy and a guitar."

Ink color choice may tell you something about a person (assuming they had a choice rather than grabbing the nearest pen). Distribute the student handout (on the last page of this lesson) with following descriptions about color choice. Do they see any of the traits of their ink color choice in themselves? Is ink color a good indicator of personality?

Red	bold, aggressive, energetic, strong
Black	powerful, conservative, precise, clear
Blue	friendly, soothing, sensitive, emotional, spiritual
Green	harmonious, adaptive
Purple	different, dramatic, one of a kind, need to be noticed

## Activity 2: Your Handwriting

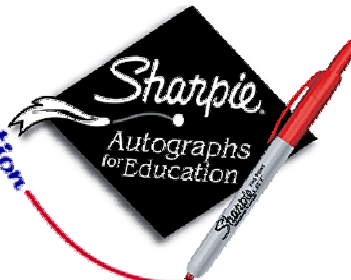
Remind students that handwriting analysis is a complicated field. It takes years of training to become a proficient graphologist—but it's still fun to dabble in the basics. Have students examine their handwriting sample from Activity 1 and decide which of the statements on the handout can be applied to their handwriting. They can circle the ones that interest them and write comments below. Use their answers to generate discussion. Have fun with it!

- The size of handwriting is said to reflect a person's self esteem-and how much space you think you deserve. Little tiny writing indicates a low self-esteem. The bigger the writing, the bigger the ego.
- Dotting your i's with something special like a circle or smiley face may show the writer wants to be different or unique. Little embellishments in handwriting makes you stand out.
- If your lines slant downwards, you may be a pessimist. But upward slants don't necessarily mean you are an optimist.
- Clear thinkers and planners write with clear spaces between lines. When lines get tangled and overlap, the writer is emotional, disorganized and confused.
- Spacing between words indicates how close you like to be to others. Spacing words far apart may indicate loneliness. Crowding words together may mean the person has no social boundaries.
- Extremely heavy pen pressure reveals frustration. Very light pressure indicates depression.
- The writers of very round shapes are passive and accepting. Angular writing indicates you are self-assertive and active.

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# A Taste of Handwriting Analysis

## *Your Ink Color Choice Can Say A Lot About You*

Red	bold, aggressive, energetic, strong
Black	powerful, conservative, precise, clear
Blue	friendly, soothing, sensitive, emotional, spiritual
Green	harmonious, adaptive
Purple	different, dramatic, one of a kind, need to be noticed

## *What Your Handwriting May Reveal*

The size of handwriting is said to reflect a person's self esteem-and how much space you think you deserve. Little tiny writing indicates a low self-esteem. The bigger the writing, the bigger the ego.

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