A person's handwriting exhibits unique characteristics that make it distinguishable from other samples. Handwriting experts examine 12 major categories of exemplars. These 12 characteristics are functions of letter form, line form, and formatting.

Specific Trait	Description	Example
Line quality	Do the letters flow or are they erratic or shaky?	forensie science
		forensic science
Spacing	Are letters equally spaced or crowded?	The right of the people to be
		The right of the people to be secure in their
		The right of the people to be secure in their
Size consistency	Is the ratio of height to width consis- tent?	The Right of the Reople
		The Right of the People The Right of the People
Continuous	Is the writing continuous or does the writer lift the pen?	forensic science
		forensic science
Connecting letters	Are capitals and lower-case letters con- nected and continuous?	The Right of the
		The Right of the The Right of the

Letters complete	Are letters completely formed? Or, is a part of the letter missing?	the right of the people the night of the
Cursive and printed letters	Are there printed letters, cursive letters, or both?	Forensic Science Forensic Science Forensic Science
Pen pressure	Is pressure equal when applied to upward and downward strokes?	forensic science forensic science forensic science
Slant	Left, right, or variable?	forensie science forensie science forensie science
Line habits	Is the text on the line, above the line, or below the line?	forensie science forensie science forensie science
Fancy curls or loops	Are there fancy curls?	Forensic Dience
Placement of crosses on t's and dots on i's	Correct or misplaced? Are t's crossed, crossed in the middle, toward top, or toward the bottom? Are i's dotted, dot- ted toward the right, left, or centered?	right right right