

A 20+ year veteran of forensic handwriting analysis, Treyce d'Gabriel, discusses some of her most memorable cases and shows you how she solved them!

Case Files of a Forensic Handwriting Analyst

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## CASE # 13781 – Good Cop ?

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your police force; however, I am asking you to please accept this letter as my letter of resignation and two weeks notice. AS you know I live a great distance from my family and I am taking this opportunity to pursue career options in my home area of the state.

In this case I was asked to evaluate why this police officer was leaving his “dream job” without previous indications. This notice of resignation was very surprising for the employer so they stated, “we just have to know what is really going on”.

The first thing I did was look for inconsistencies in writing style. The inconsistencies would show areas of deception, nervousness, or downright lies. Therefore when I look at the sample above I notice the most “honest” or “forthright” statement is the “please accept this letter”. Why? Because he is giving them the letter and therefore it is true intentions that he wants them to accept the letter. However when I compare that to the rest of the writing, there are many inconsistencies. For example you will notice how the size shrinks down which indicates that he is withdrawing and trying to ‘hide’. Why does he feel the need to hide? Then you will also notice the waviness of the writing; on the preprinted, lined paper you will notice words go up and down from actually touching the line.

However on the “honest” and “forthright” statement that I already mentioned it is all touching the line. Therefore the wavering words off of the preprinted lines indicate his fluctuating mood, and the nervousness he is experiencing internally.

Additionally you will see his various vowel shapes. Vowels are communication letters and if the person is communicating honestly without deception all of the vowels will remain clear. To better illustrate this pretend that the oval portions of vowels are eyeglass lenses and, in order to see clearly, you have to keep them clean. Therefore if the oval in the a, e, or o becomes more cluttered the more deceptive and dishonest the individual is being or becoming in his communication. However it is important to remember that communication is not just speaking or writing, communication also includes listening, body posture, facial expressions, hand gestures, etc. So when looking for deceptive behaviors that match deceptive writing style you have to research all of these ‘communication avenues’.

One other thing to mention is his varying slant – some letters lean right, some lean left, which further verifies that his emotions vary in intensity from withdrawn to dramatic. This, along with his other inconsistencies, make him predictably unpredictable.

Therefore in my report I stated that he was not being honest and, based on the significant inconsistencies identified, the deception and dishonesty becomes worst starting at the “As you know...” and ending at “...area of the state”. This tells me that the real reason he is resigning has absolutely nothing to do with the reasons he has stated. Not only do we have significant writing style changes from the one “honest” and “forthright” phrase identified earlier, we also

have dirty eyeglasses, shrinking in size, and also signs of drug use.

Drug use is best seen in fluctuating vowels within the same writing sample. In my opinion this guy is living on the edge, possibly involved in illegal activities (even if only for his own use), and is hiding behind his badge. He may possibly move to his hometown where he will be highly respected and probably not questioned.

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