

What Your Signature Reveals

The signature gives graphologists a great deal of information, much more than any other part of a subject's handwriting. The signature is the ego, but it goes beyond this point. The body of the writing represents what the writer really is, whereas the signature shows what he would like you to think he is.

If the body of the writing is similar to that of the signature, we see an essentially honest and straightforward individual—one that is not trying to impress others or play a false part. When the signature varies from the body of the writing, graphologists first analyze the body of the writing, to discover what the writer really is. Then they check that against the signature to get an impression of the writer's persona—the role he is trying to play.

*Suppose most of all that all of them
Grandma Ruthie*

Figure 1

In Figure 1, the body of the writing is generally vertical, showing a cool approach toward people in general. The inclined signature implies anything but coolness. Grandma Ruthie wants you to think that she is warmer than she really is.

Notice that the text in the writing of Harriet Beecher Stowe (Figure 1A) is quite similar to that of her signature in angle, pressure, and size of capitals. This consistency between text and signature can also be seen in the writing of Albert Schweitzer (Figure 1B), showing them both to be "true types."

*of the Duchess of Argyll
I charge the same to
my account —
very respectfully
A B Stowe*

1A

*Informationsvermittlung zu erheben und sich
dann bei mir über die Lage in USA zu
mitzuteilen. Mit besten Gedanken Ihr
Albert Schweitzer.*

1B

By contrast to Figure 1, Figure 2 shows the body of the writing to be inclined (warm), whereas the signature is more or less upright (cool). Ted is warm and sensitive, but would prefer you to think of him as more indifferent than he really is.

I never even noticed you were gone

Ted

Figure 2

Compare the right-slanted body of the writing of French composer Jules Massenet (Figure 2A) with his vertical signature. The real man was quite warm, but he thought it better for others to think of him as being a bit more "cool," perhaps for professional reasons.

ah! quelle brute était la prison,
quel talent était le tien; et je
sais des amis qui le plussent
... ainsi que moi qui l'ai
comme et bien aimé!...

22 Nov
1911.

Massenet

2A

Figure 3 shows simplified writing, but displays an artistic signature. The writer, a person of simple tastes, would like you to think he is artistic.

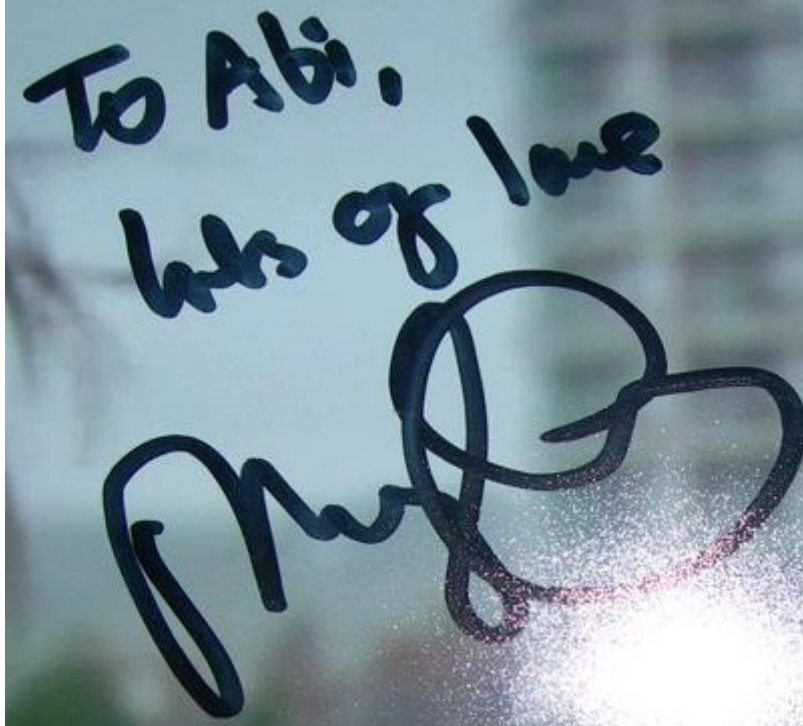


Figure 3

Figure 4 contrasts the large writing of the main body with a tiny signature. Henry is far from being humble, but his tiny signature shows that he wants you to think he is.

If you think that's all there is, then

Henry Street

Figure 4

When a person holds an image in his mind of someone he respects or likes, he tends to make that person's appearance larger than it actually is. The opposite is also true: lack of respect for someone makes him reduce the image in size. These images are shown in his writing.

When the writer in Figure 5 addresses the person to whom she is writing, her handwriting shrinks in size in comparison to the body of the writing. Thus, this writer has low esteem for Mrs. Coll.

Dear Mrs. Coll,

*It really bothers me whenever all of the crowd
meet, for some*

Figure 5

*Dear Bonnie,
It was wonderful seeing you again.
Do you remember*

Figure 6

The body of the writing in Figure 6 is smaller than the name of the addressee. Therefore, the writer has a high regard for Bonnie.

*Dear cousin Charlie
How have you been?*

Figure 7

Although the addressee's name in Figure 7 is unclear, the body of the writing is quite legible. The writer is confused, not sure of how he feels about his cousin.

Hello Dave

We were happy to bunk into

Figure 8

In Figure 8, the addressee's name is "wiped out." The writer would love to get rid of Dave somehow or other.

*Nancy,
I'll stop by Thursday for the receipts.
Charlie*

Figure 9

In Figure 9, the writer's own name is written much larger than that of the addressee. Charlie thinks much more of himself than he does of Nancy.

The way a man signs his first name indicates what the writer thinks of himself. The way he signs his surname hints at his feeling toward his family—particularly his father, since the surname does represent him.

When both names are equal in size, he demonstrates an equal regard for himself as an individual and for his family. When there is a variation, the writer is portraying how he feels about his relationship with his family.

Joseph Planter

Figure 10

In Figure 10, the first name is larger than the surname. The writer is more involved in his own affairs than concerned with being part of his family.

This trait can be seen in the signature of Miguel de Cervantes in Figure 10A:

*Miguel de Cervantes
Saavedra*

Figure 10A

David Lancer

Figure 11

Figure 11 shows the surname larger than the first name. This writer considers his family first and thinks of himself as part of it, rather than as an individual on his own. The signature of Alfred Nobel in Figure 11A shows this trait:

*Yours very truly
Alfred Nobel*

Figure 11A

When the capitals of both first name and surname are large and relatively even, as in the signature of Ted Kennedy in Figure 11B, it shows a person who is proud of his family as well as of himself:

Sincerely.
Ted Kennedy
Edward M. Kennedy

Figure 11B

As the following examples show, a woman's writing often demonstrates her opinion of her husband.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Joseph Jay". The words "Mrs." and "Joseph" are written in a smaller, more compact hand, while "Jay" is written in a significantly larger, more prominent hand.

Figure 12

Not only does the woman in Figure 12 sign herself with the title "Mrs.," she writes her husband's name in a large hand. Mrs. Jay is very proud of her Joseph.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Anna Smith". The words "Mrs." and "Smith" are written in a very large, elegant hand, while "Anna" is written in a smaller, more compact hand.

Figure 13

In Figure 13, a woman writes her title and husband's last name quite large in comparison to her own given name. She thinks much more highly of her husband than she does of herself.

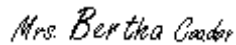
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Bertha Coaker". The words "Mrs." and "Coaker" are written in a small, compact hand, while "Bertha" is written in a significantly larger, more prominent hand.

Figure 14

Though the woman in Figure 14 did sign her name with the title "Mrs.," it and her husband's last name are small in comparison to her own given name. She is prouder of herself than of her husband.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Aden". The word "Sara" is written in a very large, elegant hand, while "Aden" is written in a smaller, more compact hand.

Figure 15

In Figure 15 (this happens to be the signature of a married woman) the writer writes her own given name much larger than her husband's. It is easy to see why, as she has little regard for her husband.

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