

# Your Personality Traits Show In The Way You Write

By MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

Every time you take pen in hand, you give some clues to your personality.

That's the word from a Livonia lady who for 14 years has made a study of handwriting and its people.

According to Mrs. Florence Dinsler, the way you dot your 'i's and cross your 't's, the way you write an 'm' or 'n', even the amount of pressure you use when writing can tell something about you.

And to show what she meant, she gave some "quickie" analyses of a few samples of handwriting handed her. They came amazingly close to the personalities involved.

"I CAN'T DO the kind of a job I like on these 'quickies,'" she commented. "It's just not possible to make a real study from a tiny sample.

"When I study someone's writing, I like to take at least eight hours and study thoroughly a large sample of writing."

She does use her knowledge to analyze handwriting for husband Robert, who is in the insurance business, and

sometimes would like to put it to work in the personnel department of a business.

"I see so many people in the wrong jobs," she said. "I really think the personality picture that handwriting study gives would help steer some in another direction."

FLORENCE DINSLER really became interested in handwriting because she's a skeptic.

"I heard a chiropractor lecture back in 1958," she said, "and in passing he showed some diagrams of handwriting quirks and their meanings.

"I guess I didn't really believe it, but I saw so many foibles in my own writing that I had to find out if there was anything to it."

Two correspondence courses later, Mrs. Dinsler felt she had just skimmed the surface of the study of graphology, and she's been at it ever since.

She now teaches graphology in the Adult Education program at Franklin High School, lectures on the subject occasionally and fills specific requests for analyses.

She explained that graphology is considered a

branch of psychology and that in Europe, it is a required part of the study of that science.

"There are psychologists," she added, "who feel that handwriting study gives a more accurate picture of a personality than can be gained from a lot of psychological tests."

SHE SAID SHE'S BEEN accused of having extra-sensory perception when studying personality through handwriting samples.

"But I definitely don't have ESP," she emphasized. "Just the kind of instinct and common sense many people have. And I certainly can't foretell the future because I have no idea of people's goals.

"I can only point out the traits that show strongly in the handwriting I see."

In the case of a student trying to decide a course of study, a young person making a career choice, a couple contemplating marriage, she can point out traits that could make a difference.

"I don't suggest or give advice," she added, "but I occasionally like and dislikes and abilities and weaknesses so they can know what to expect."

Mrs. Dinsler occasionally analyzes signatures, but doesn't find that as satisfactory.

"Signatures are different," she said. "They are the image you wish to project to the public. Your writing is the real you."

LOOKING OVER several samples of writing, she noted things like "m's" and "t's" formed with pointed tops (sign of an inventive mind) a "l" formed like a wigwag (sign of stubbornness) and strong down-strokes or writing that showed through on the other side of the paper (sign of forcefulness).

"People wonder what they should write, but I don't pay any attention to that," she added. "I'm looking at the individual letters and strokes."

Mrs. Dinsler likes to know the sex of the person who wrote the sample. She's studying and his approximate age. "Maturity shows in handwriting," she added, "so similar samples would mean different things in a young and in a mature person."

And each person's handwriting does change a lot over the years. "I look at some of

the recipes I copied 20 years ago and see big changes in myself," she said. "I'm getting a lot more aggressive."

IN THE SAMPLES she analyzed for us, she seemed less accurate in the matter of finger dexterity, mentioning it for a couple of people who didn't seem inclined that way and leaving it out of the description of one who is.

But she mentioned that she had noticed such dexterity in the handwriting of one young lady whose penmanship she studied, and had recommended that the subject take up sewing. She did and found it most satisfying.

"Handwriting can show abilities that are latent," Mrs. Dinsler concluded.

And it can show other unexpected things, as in the case of Observer Chief Photographer Bob Woodring.

Fascinated by the discussion as he took pictures just before his vacation, he asked Mrs. Dinsler to do a "quickie" on his handwriting.

"Why are you so down in the dumps?" she asked, noting the downward slant of the lines. "You have a generally optimistic outlook, but something's depressing you."

We commented that seemed strange for a young man vacation bound, but Bob cleared up the mystery.

"We're visiting my in-laws first," he said.



MRS. FLORENCE DINSLER concentrates on a sample of handwriting. Several others on the desk await her examination. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

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"A VERY DECISIVE PERSON," Florence Dinsler said in looking at this sample of penmanship, one of several we collected by asking individuals to copy a recent Observer story. "He makes up his mind and sticks to it. He's very loyal to people, to causes. He feels things very strongly - has a lot of drive. He can get up and down in the very demanding." Observer staff members and others in the community should be able to recognize Executive Editor R. T. Thompson.

"THIS PERSON IS capable of great concentration -- it takes a lot to distract her. She has great mental discipline -- will do a job whether she likes it or not and finish it and go on to the next thing. This is a lady in every sense of the word. She'll try for peace at any price. She's cheerful -- never depresses or down in the mouth." Mrs. Dinsler didn't know it, but she was describing her longtime friend, Mrs. Geraldine Joyner of the Livonia Board of Education.

"HERE'S A VERY analytical mind, a man who never takes things for granted always asks why, who said that. He seeks new knowledge -- this is a reader. He's a believer in the idea that charity begins at home -- gives much to those close but doesn't extend himself. He has a great ability to do detailed work and enjoys it." That reporting ability stands Doug Johnson in good stead whether he's teaching journalism at Stevens High School during the school year or filling in for Observer editors during the summer.

## Spotlight on Women

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## Getting Set For Kindergarten

(Last week we printed some suggestions from Mrs. Diane K. Bert, director of the Redford Union Parent Readiness Education Project, for getting pre-kindergartners ready for school. Here are some of her ideas.)

There are many games that will help your boy or girl improve his visual skills. Very simple materials are used.

Several games about color concepts can be played using eight or more large red, yellow and blue construction paper circles. To help your child recognize red, lay out all the red, yellow and blue circles on the table. Pick up a red one and tell him, "This is red." Then ask him to give you all the others that are red. Play the game several times. When he knows red, do the same activity with yellow or blue.

You could extend this game by walks or supermarket jaunts. If your boy or girl has been learning to recognize blue, you might have him tell you when he sees blue things,

for instance, towels, cereal boxes or books.

You can use colored circles to help him recognize and imitate patterns. Using circles of three different colors, lay them out in a row, working always from left to right, and naming the colors as you do. Then let the child make a row just like yours, using his set of circles. Repeat, changing the order of the colors.

When he can do this, lay out your pattern without describing the colors, and let him copy the order and name the colors as he does. If he catches on to this activity quickly, try some designs that are not in a row, like a triangle, diagonal or vertical arrangement.

HAVE HIM LOOK through old magazines for yellow (or blue) things to cut out. Have him paste these pictures on a large sheet of paper (a newspaper page will do). Help him if necessary, and talk about each picture with him as

he cuts and pastes. Display the masterpiece where the youngster can see it and show it to Dad.

Let him make his own puzzles. Have him choose a picture from a magazine or newspaper, the bigger the better. Tear it out and let the pre-schooler paste it on cardboard. Make a puzzle by cutting the picture in three pieces. As he puts his puzzle together, emphasize that he made it. Make more puzzles, and when the three-piece puzzles become too easy, cut them into more pieces.

Little children love guessing games, and the penmanship game requires no materials. Pretend you are doing a certain activity, such as sweeping the floor. Ask the boy or girl to guess what you are doing. As he catches on, have him act out an activity for you to guess.

TO PLAY "In or Out" you'll need to round up a variety of small objects or toys and a box

they'll fit in. The parent begins by taking an item, identifying it, and saying, "This is a spoon." The parent then places the spoon in the box, saying, "The spoon is in the box."

The adult then hands the spoon to the child and directs him to put the spoon in the box.

As the child does so, he repeats, "The spoon is IN the box." The youngster puts all the items into the box.

Then the parent takes out one object and says, "The spoon is not in the box; it is OUT of the box." The child does the same with the other toys until they are all removed.

YOU CAN USE the same box and objects to play "In Front of and Behind." Reverse the game by letting the child tell you where to put the toys. Play "Where Are You?" letting the child be the object behind or in front of the object.

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