

# Interpreting Handwriting

Distinguishing between Genuine,  
Disguised and Simulated Handwriting

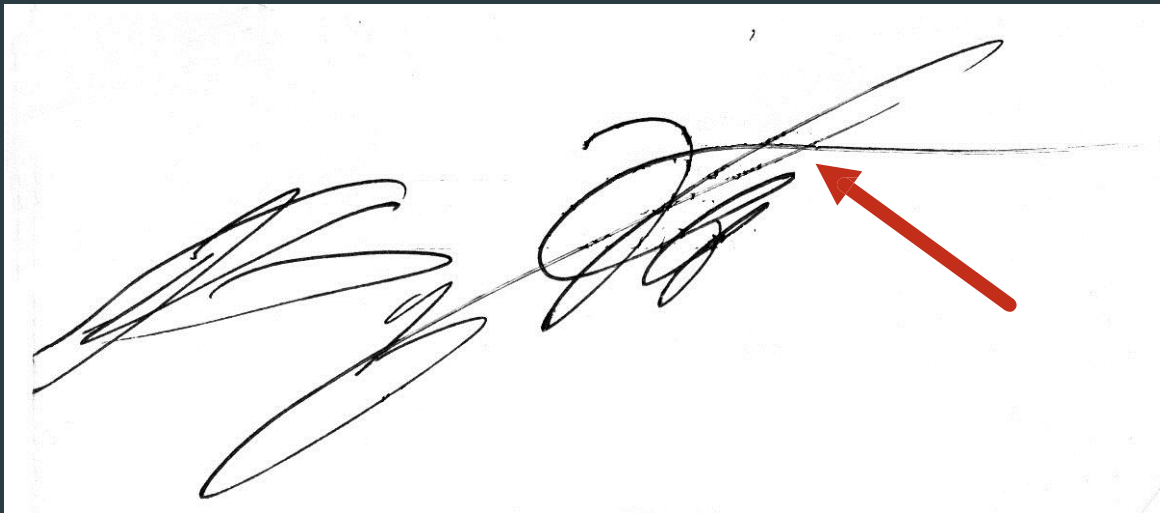
# Genuine Writing

- ▶ Genuine writing can be identified by the numerous similarities of handwriting characteristics between the questioned and the known signatures and the lack of any **unexplainable fundamental differences**.



# Genuine Writing

- ▶ Natural writing has good line quality and obvious pressure patterns.



# Genuine Writing



Brig. Gen.

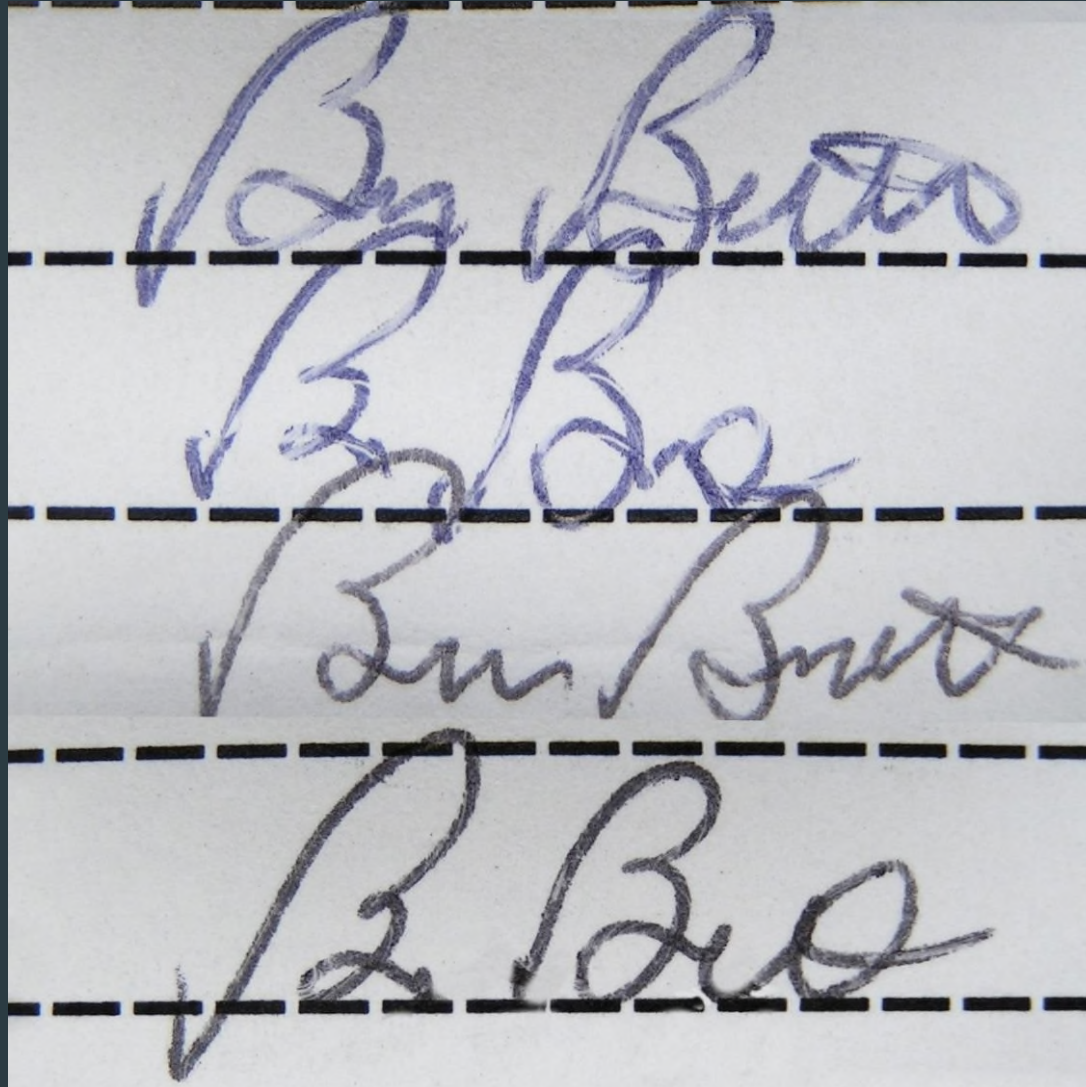
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brig. Gen.", written in black ink on a white background. The signature is positioned above a horizontal dashed line. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Gen."

# Genuine Writing

1. Free of distortion
2. Rapidly written
3. Internally consistent
4. Uniform
5. Good rhythm
6. Carelessly written

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brig. Gen.", written on a white background with a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and expressive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

# Genuine Writing



# Simulations

- ▶ Disguise and simulation contain some similarities and some differences with known writing.
- ▶ It is important to learn the characteristics that distinguish disguise from simulation.

# Simulations

- ▶ A simulation is an attempt to imitate the handwriting of another person through tracing or as a freehand copy.
- ▶ A simulation can be identified by the presence of fundamental differences in the handwriting.

# Fundamental Differences

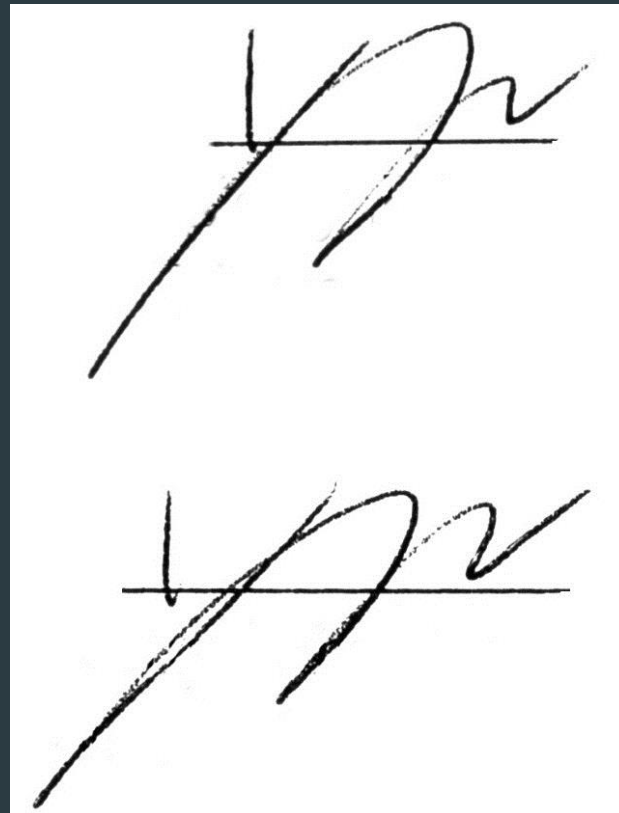
- ▶ A fundamental difference is an irreconcilable difference. Fundamental differences in handwriting that are significant include:
  - ▶ line quality,
  - ▶ pressure patterns,
  - ▶ the method of construction,
  - ▶ skill level, or
  - ▶ subtle subconscious handwriting characteristics.

# Simulations

- a) Too similar
- b) Poor line quality
- c) Even pressure
- d) Retracing
- e) Erasures
- f) Additions
- g) Patching

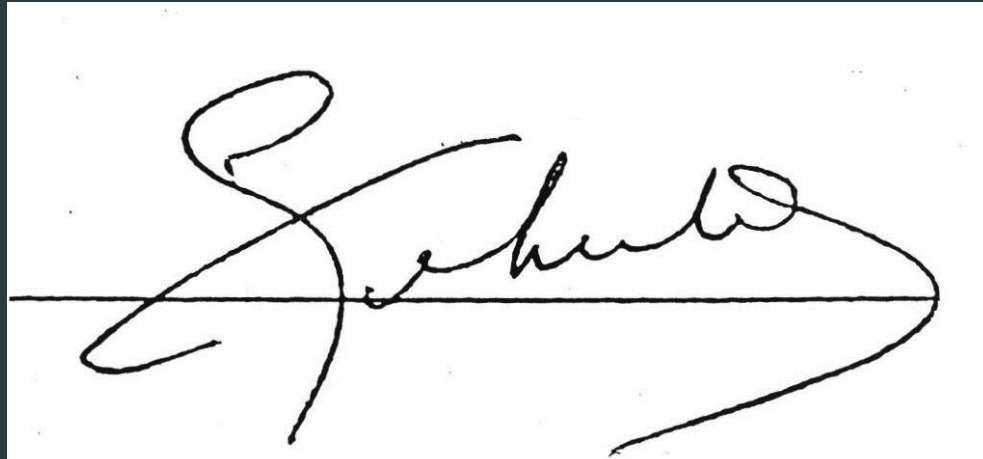
# Simulations

- ▶ Simulations frequently lack natural variation when a model signature is copied.



# Simulations

► Model

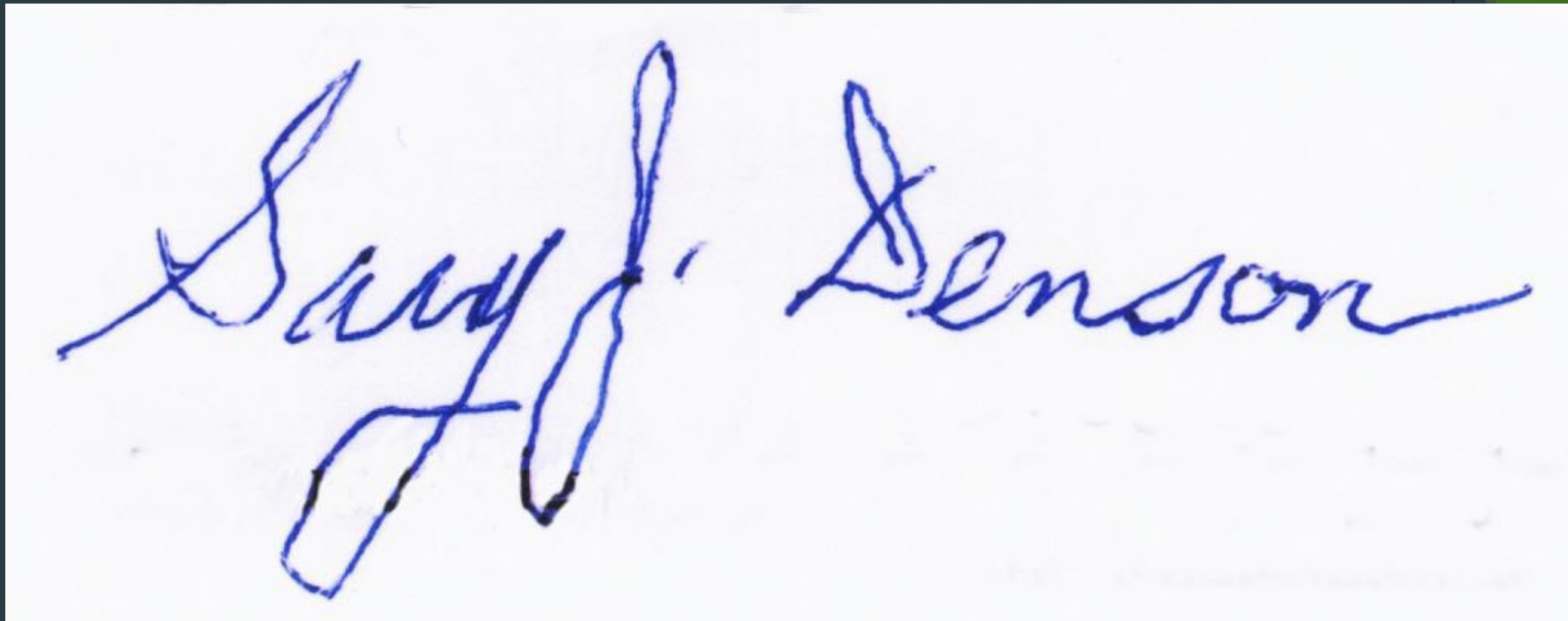


► Tracing



# Simulations

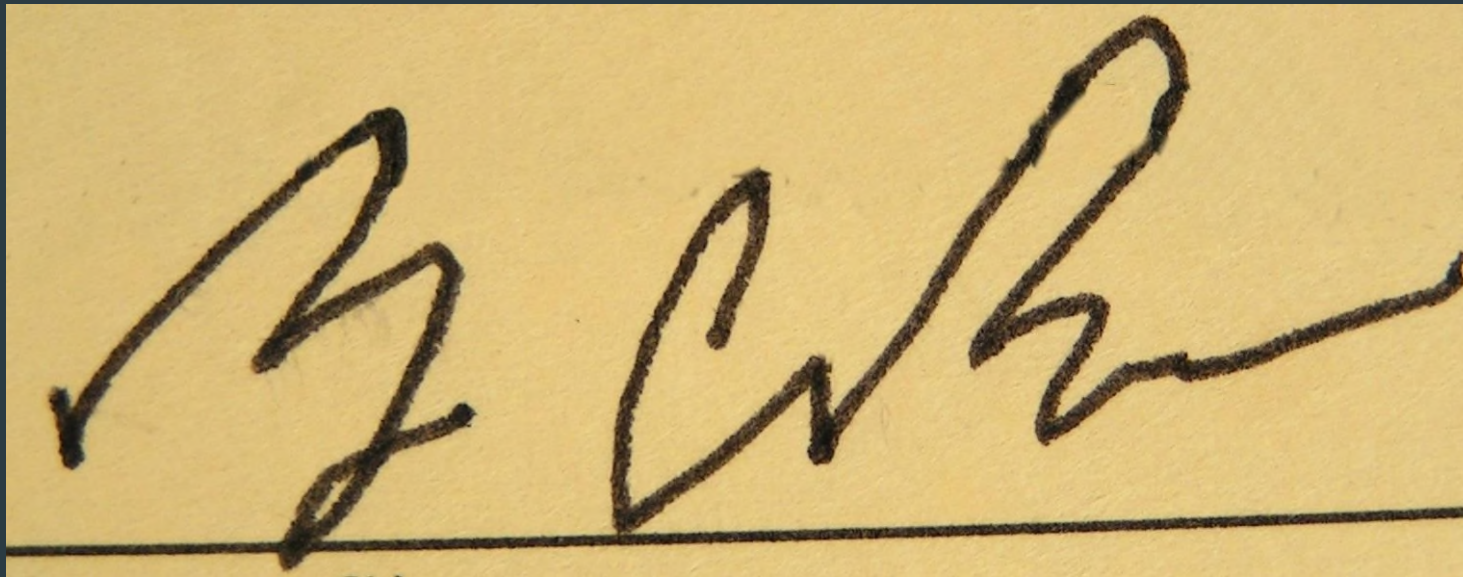
## Poor Line Quality



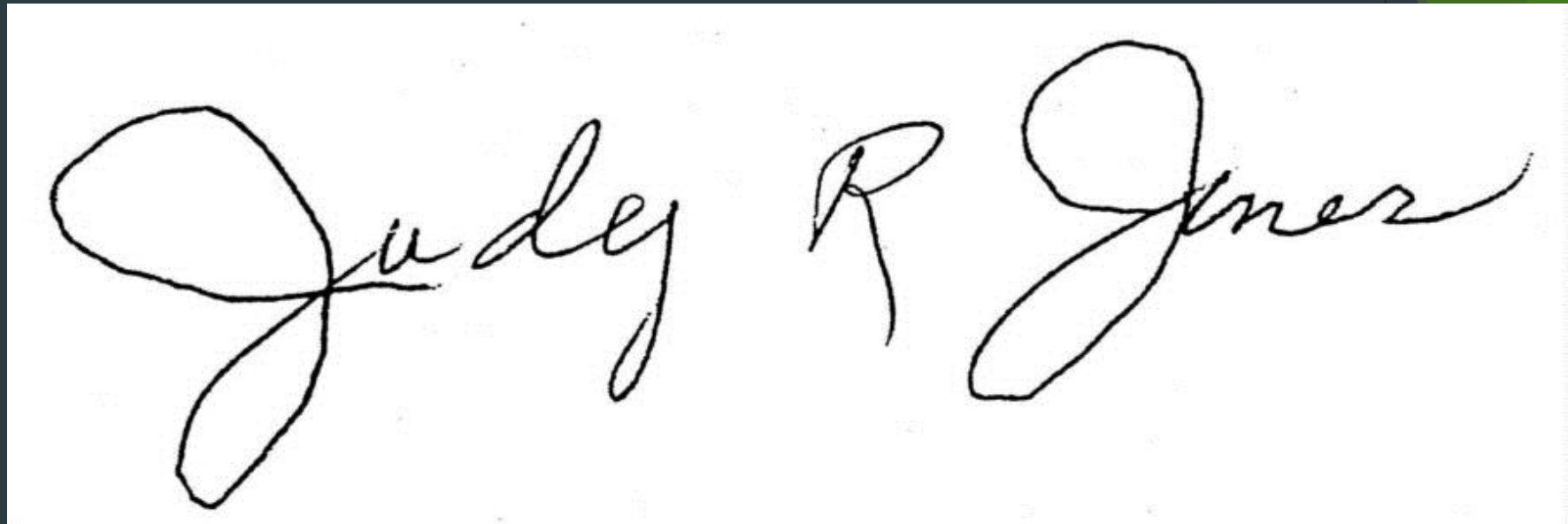
Sally Benson

# Simulations

## Poor Line Quality

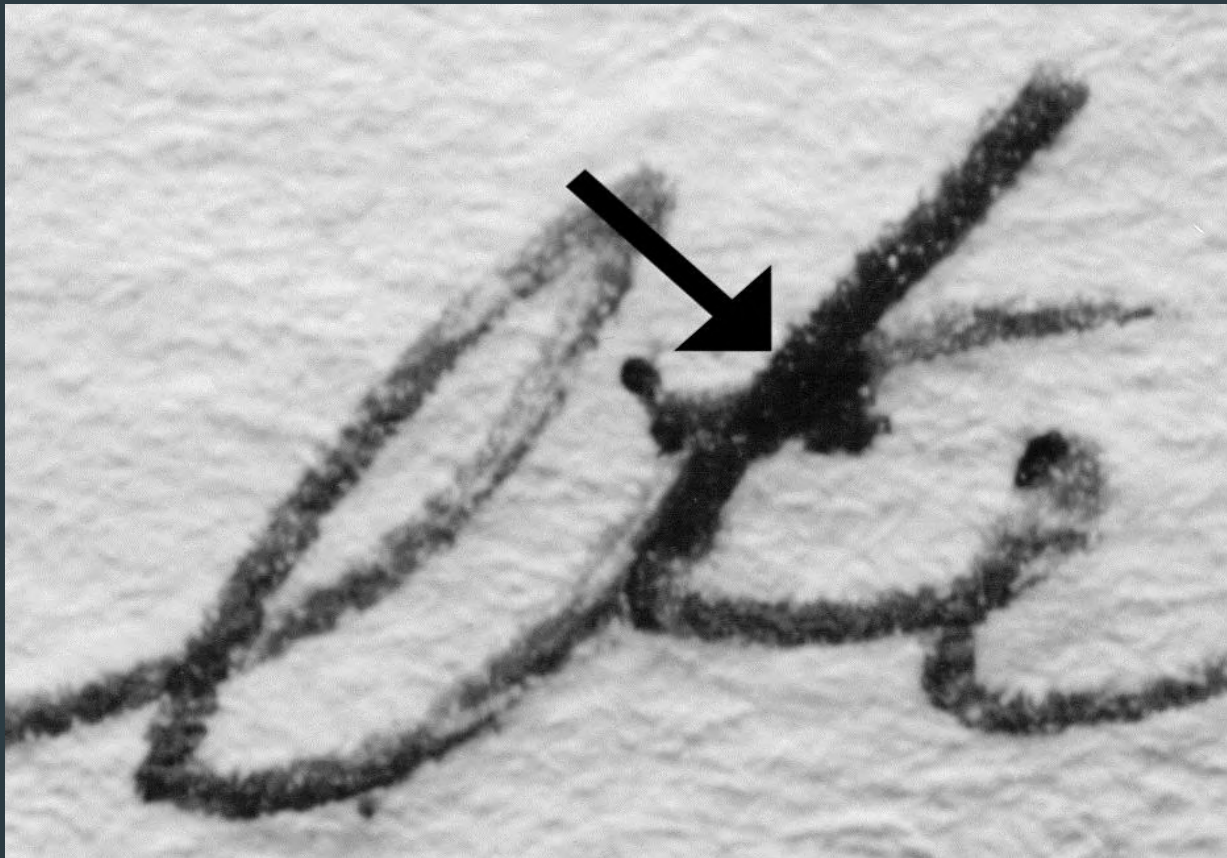


# Simulations Even Pressure

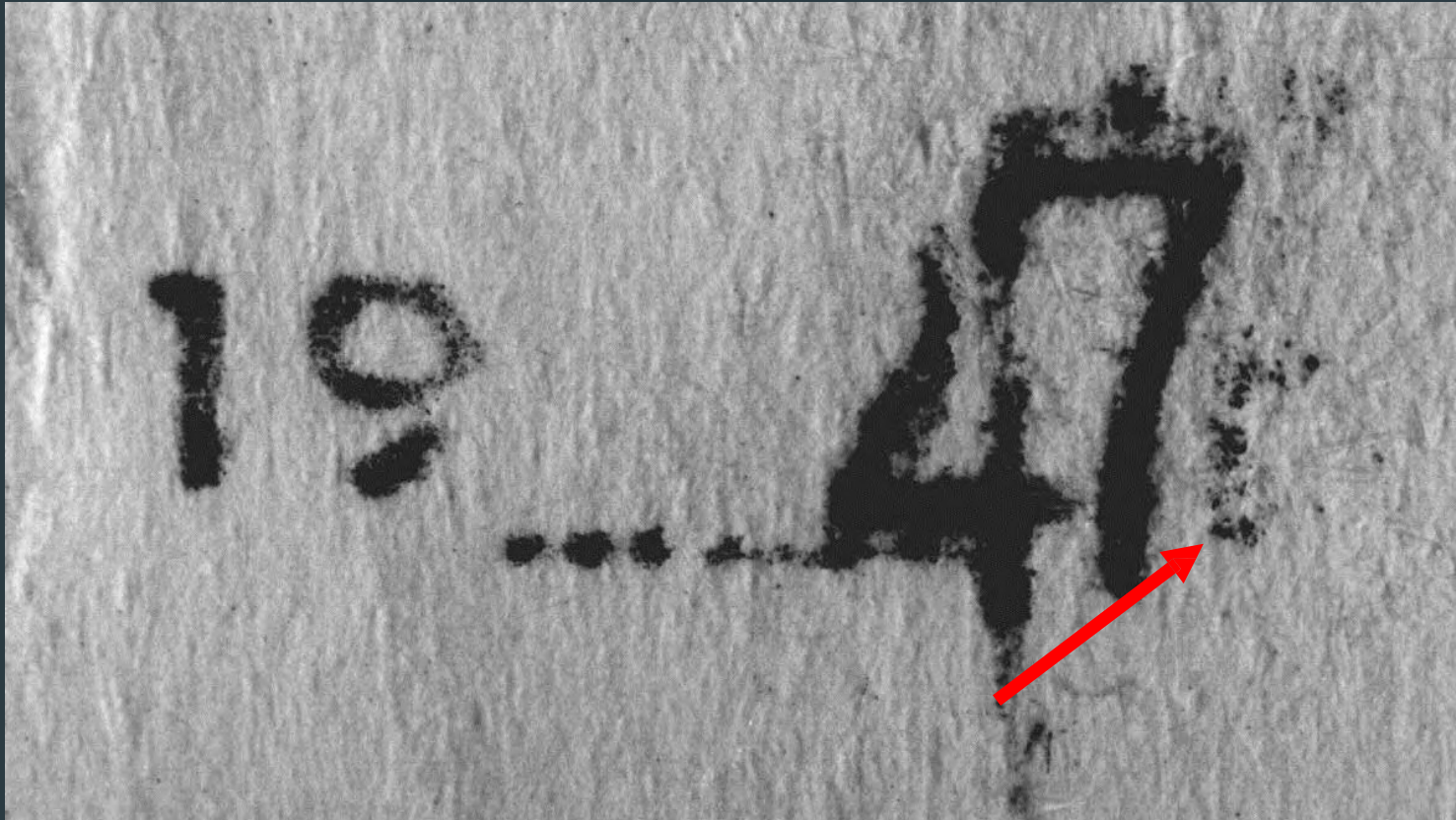
A handwritten signature in black ink on a white rectangular background. The signature reads "Judy R Jones". The "J" is large and loops around the "u". The "R" is a simple, stylized capital. The "Jones" part is written in a cursive style with a large "J" and a trailing flourish.

Judy R Jones

# Simulations Retracing

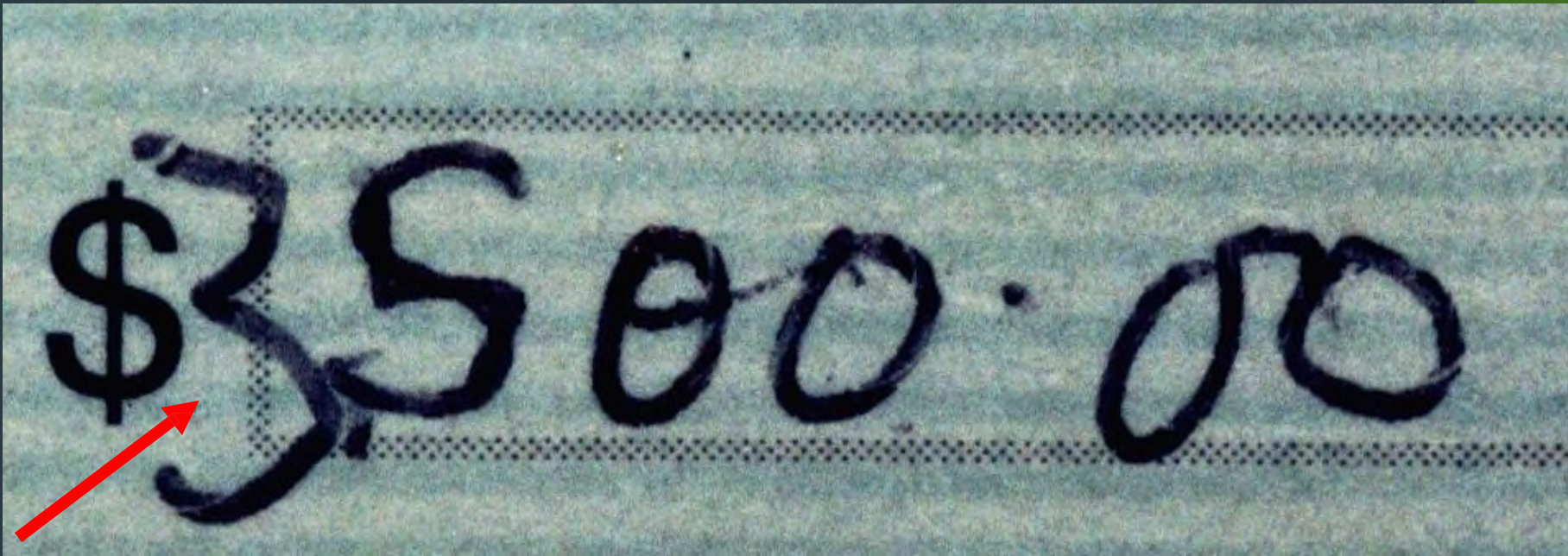


# Simulations Erasures

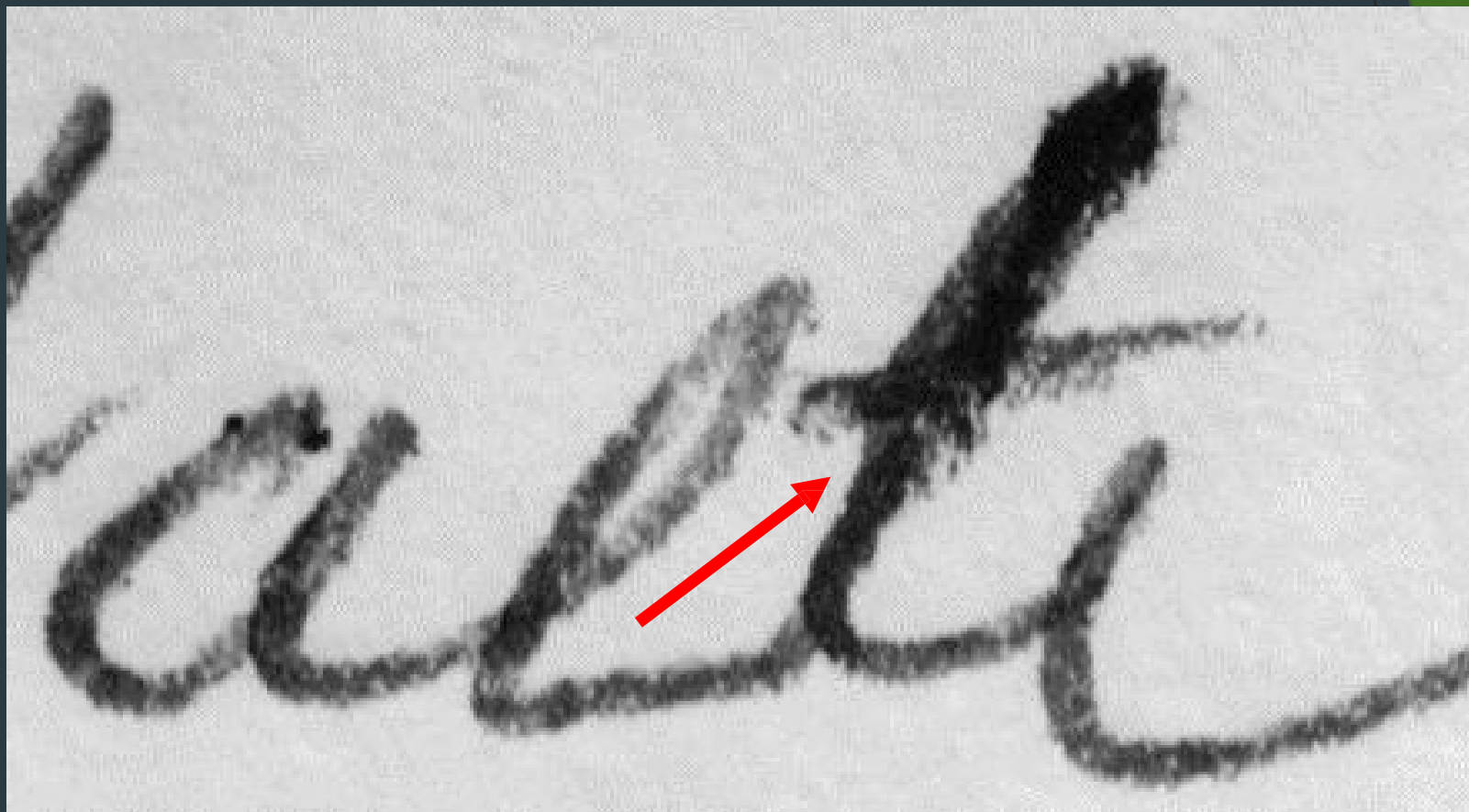


# Simulations

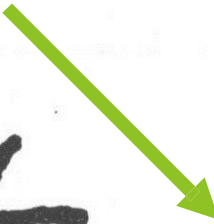
## Additions



# Simulations Patching



# Simulations Patching



*C. Stewart Gamber*  
A. Stewart Gamber

# Disguise

- ▶ Disguised writing is any deliberate attempt to alter one's handwriting to prevent recognition.
- ▶ The most prominent sign of disguise is inconsistency in the writing.



# Disguised Writing Inconsistencies

MINTENG CHEN 378  
ELIZABETH CHEN  
5673 A HARPERS FARM ROAD, (301) 730-9495  
COLUMBIA, MD 21044

3/20 19 87 1925

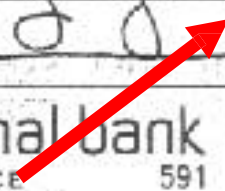
PAY TO THE ORDER OF Timothy J. Chen \$ 100.00

one hundred XX 100 DOLLARS

 maryland national bank  
COLUMBIA OFFICE 591  
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

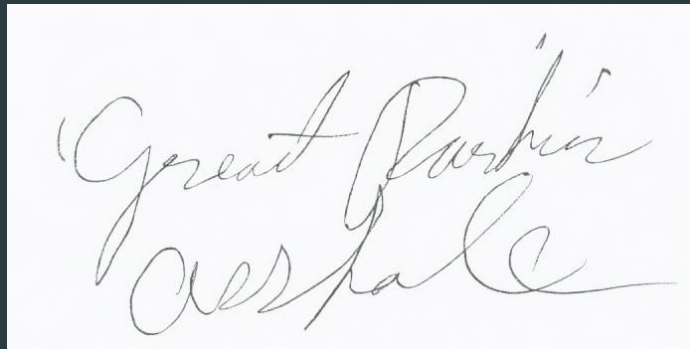
MEMO Minteng Chen

⑆0520001661⑆1925⑆00 79044665⑆ 000000100000⑆

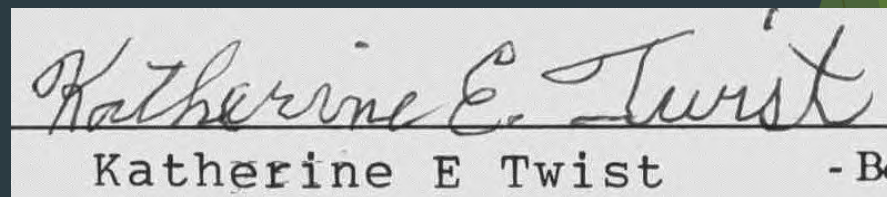


# Disguise / Simulation

- ▶ Here is a list of 25 differences between disguise and simulation.
  1. Writing speed moderate / Slow



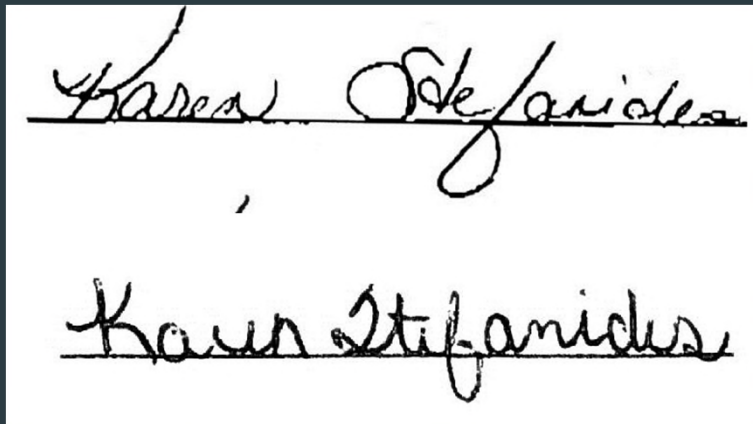
Disguise



Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

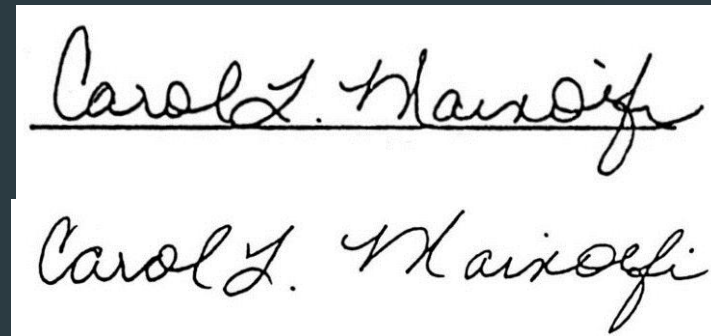
Deviation from model



Kares Stefanides  
Kares Stefanides

Disguise

► Attempt to imitate model



Carol L. Hainoff  
Carol L. Hainoff

Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

## 3. Capital letters changed / Close to model

**QUESTIONED**

Mollie B. Stearns

**KNOWN**

Mollie Stearns

Disguise

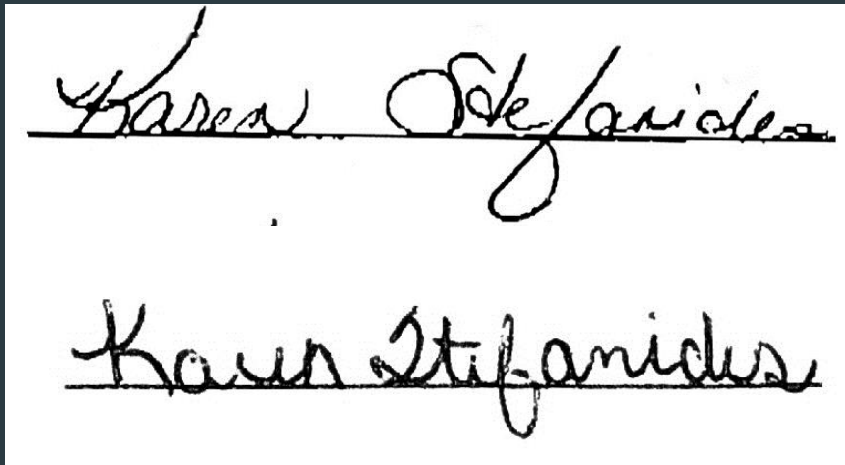
Carol L. Hainoff

Carol L. Hainoff

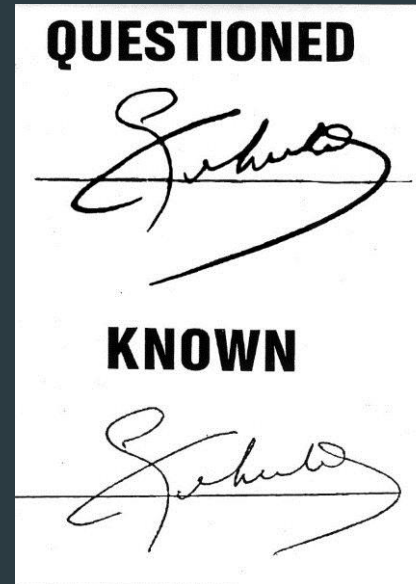
Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

## 4. Subtle characteristics present/Missing



Disguise



Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

## 5. Correct master pattern / Missing master

**QUESTIONED**

Mollie B. Stearns

**KNOWN**

Mollie Stearns

Disguise

Brig. Gen.

Brig. Gen.

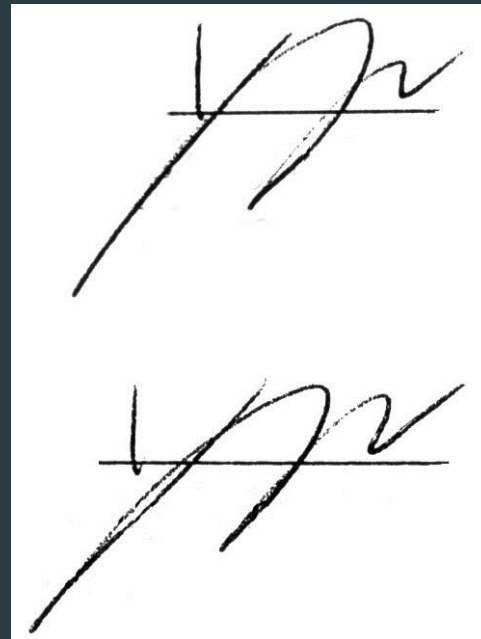
Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

## 6. Inconsistencies / Lack of natural variation

I'm gonna kick  
ass. The bitches  
gonna Be afraid of  
me I'm gonna get  
them bitches too

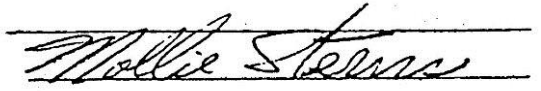
Disguise

The image shows two identical handwritten signatures, one above the other. Each signature consists of a horizontal line with a vertical tick on the left, followed by a stylized, cursive 'J' or 'Z' shape. The two signatures are perfectly identical in every stroke and angle, which is a key indicator of simulation.

Simulation

# Disguise - Simulation

7. Tries to deviate from pictorial effect



*Mollie E. Sterns*  
MOLLIE ELIZABETH STERNS, Defendant

Disguise

Adheres to model



Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

8. Correct method of construction/ Incorrect

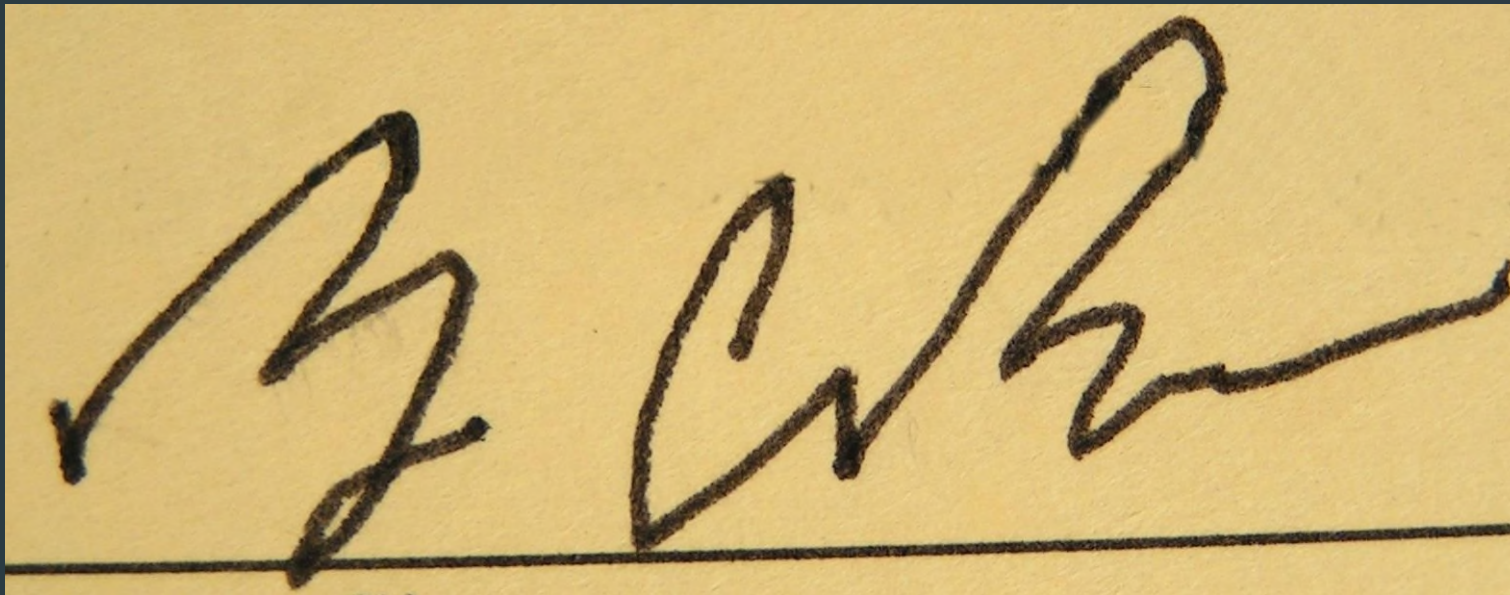


The image shows a handwritten signature 'Helen R. Gamber' in black ink on a white background. The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature, the name 'Helen R. Gamber' is printed in a black, serif font. A horizontal line separates the handwritten signature from the printed name.

Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

## 9. Moderate rhythm / Poor rhythm



Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

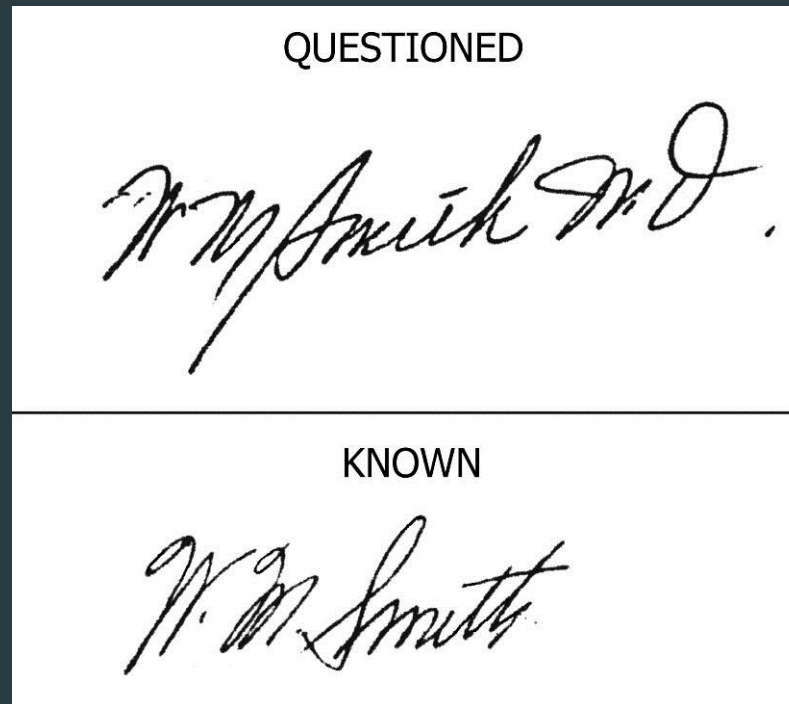
## 10. Different size / same size

|                                           |                                |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Patricia Scalfarie RN, BSN</u>         |                                |
| Signature of Director of Nursing/Designee |                                |
| <u>202-877-7000</u>                       | <u>P.Scalfarie@medstar.net</u> |
| Telephone Number                          | E-mail                         |
| <u>Patricia Scalfarie</u>                 |                                |
| Name of Director of Nursing/Designee      |                                |

Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

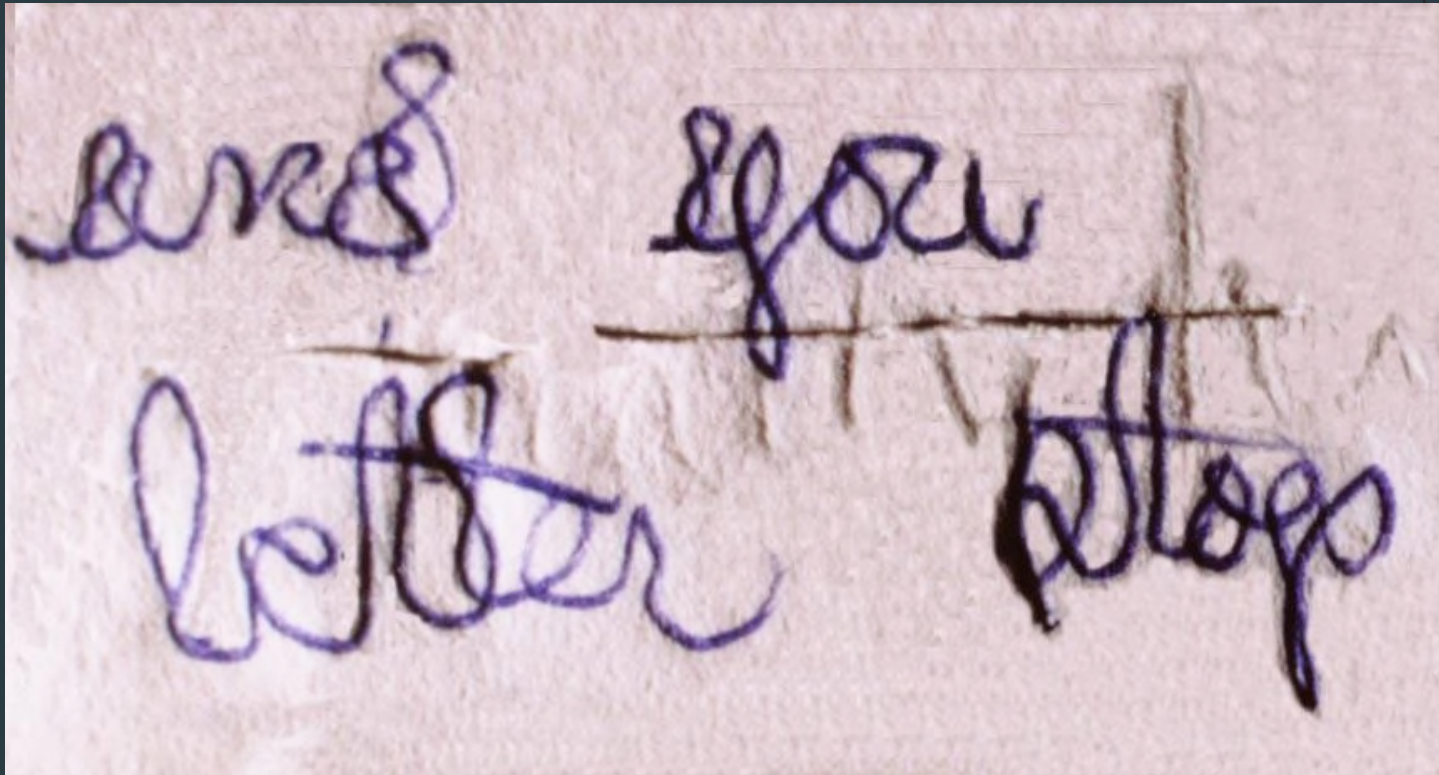
## 11. Proportions the same / Different



Disguise

# Disguise / Simulation

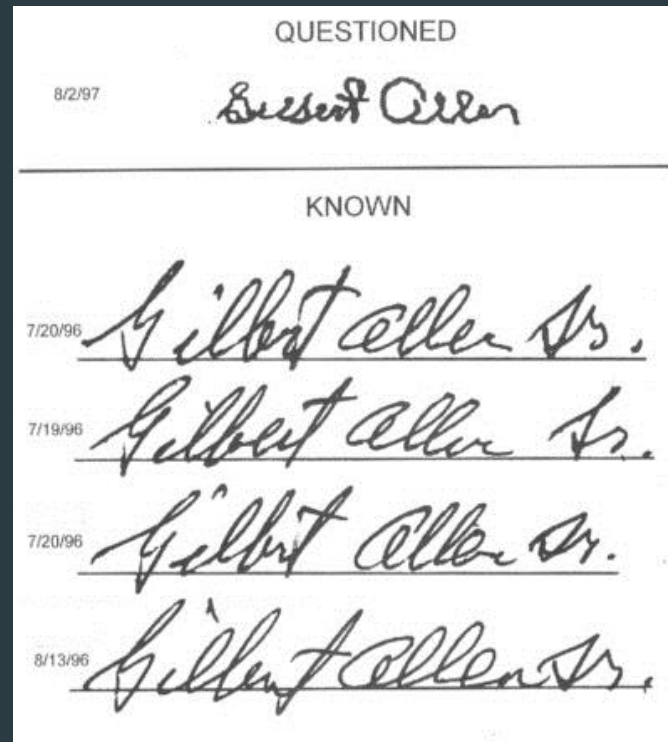
## 12. Letterforms: some unusual / Similar



Disguise

# Disguise / Simulation

## 13. Similar arrangement / Different



Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

14. No pen lifts or ink blobs/ Pen lifts & blobs



Simulation

# Disguise / Simulation

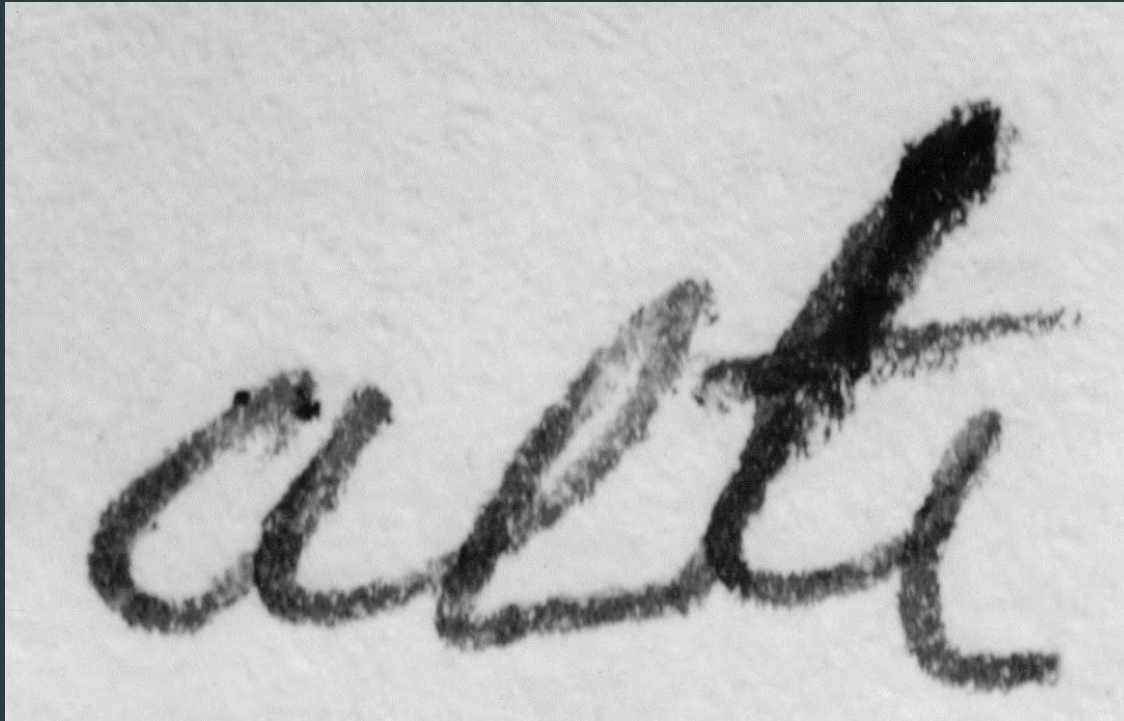
## 15. Utilization of space similar/ Different

NOBODY LIKES YOU.  
YOU R A PIG.  
GO AWAY AND  
LEAVE US ALONE.

NOBODY LIKES YOU.  
YOU R A PIG.  
GO AWAY AND LEAVE  
US ALONE.

# Disguise / Simulation

## 16. No patching / Patching



# Disguise / Simulation

17. Natural writing / Conscious attention to the act of writing



W.S. Harris

# Disguise / Simulation

## 18. Change of slant / Similar slant

MINTENG CHEN 378  
ELIZABETH CHEN  
5673 A HARPERS FARM ROAD, (301) 730-9495  
COLUMBIA, MD 21044

3/20 19 87 1925

7-18  
520

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Timothy J. Chen \$ 100.00

one hundred ~~100~~ <sup>XX</sup> DOLLARS

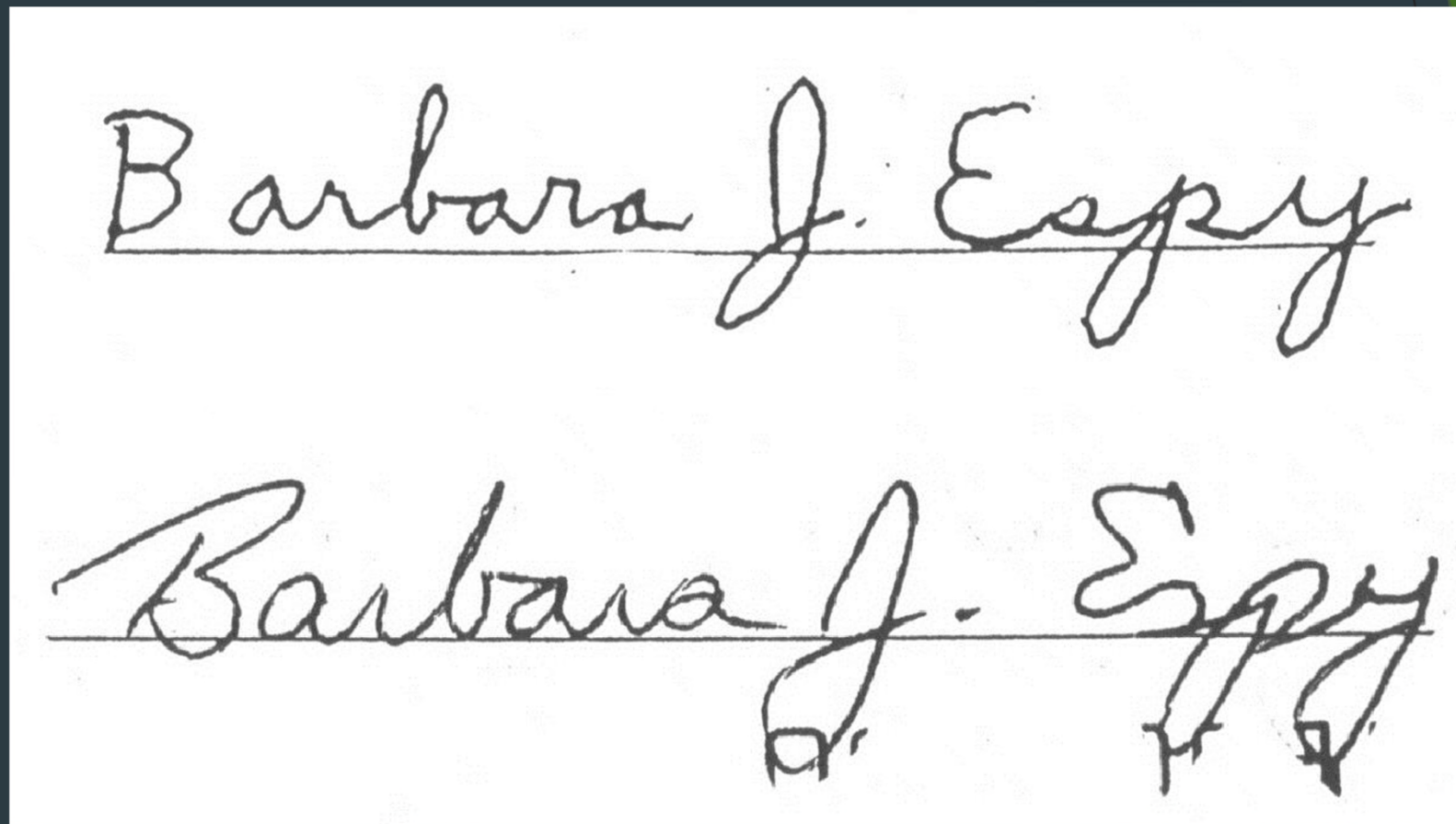
 maryland national bank  
COLUMBIA OFFICE 591  
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

MEMO Minteng Chen

⑆052000168⑆1925⑈00 79044665⑈ 00000010000⑈

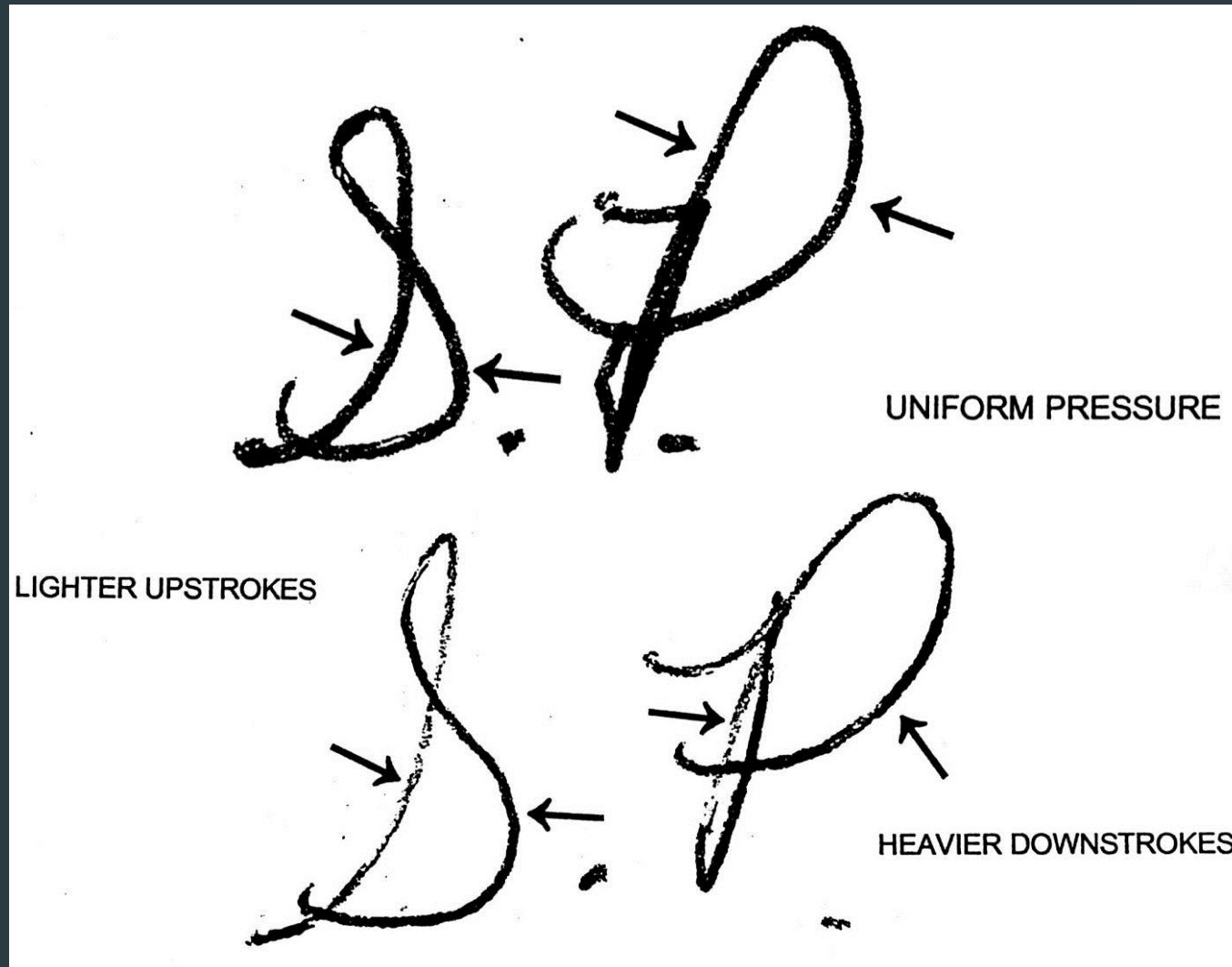
# Disguise / Simulation

## 19. Similar baseline / Different baseline



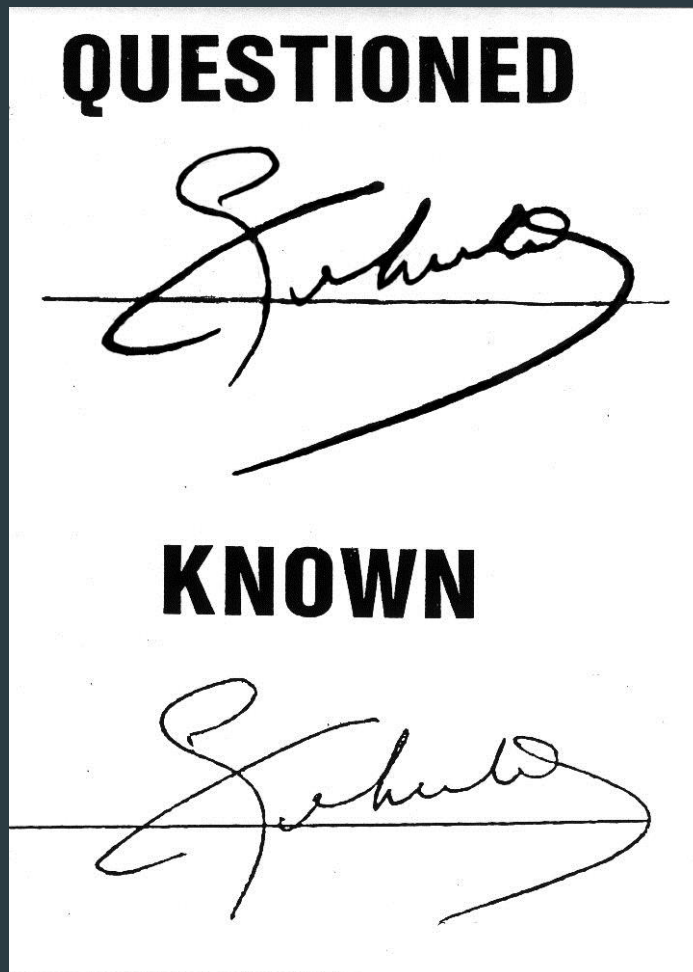
# Disguise / Simulation

## 20. Same pressure patterns / Even pressure



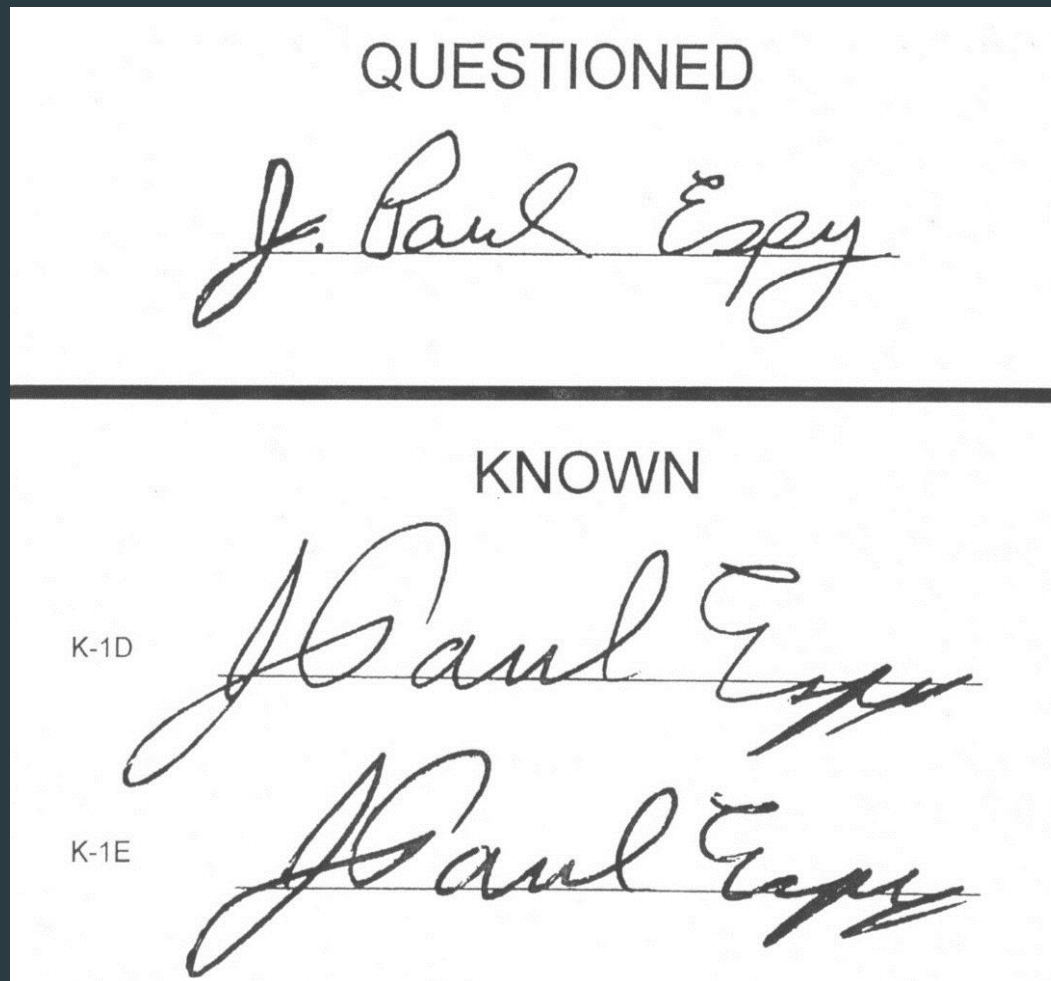
# Disguise / Simulation

21. Pictorial effect different / Attempt to imitate



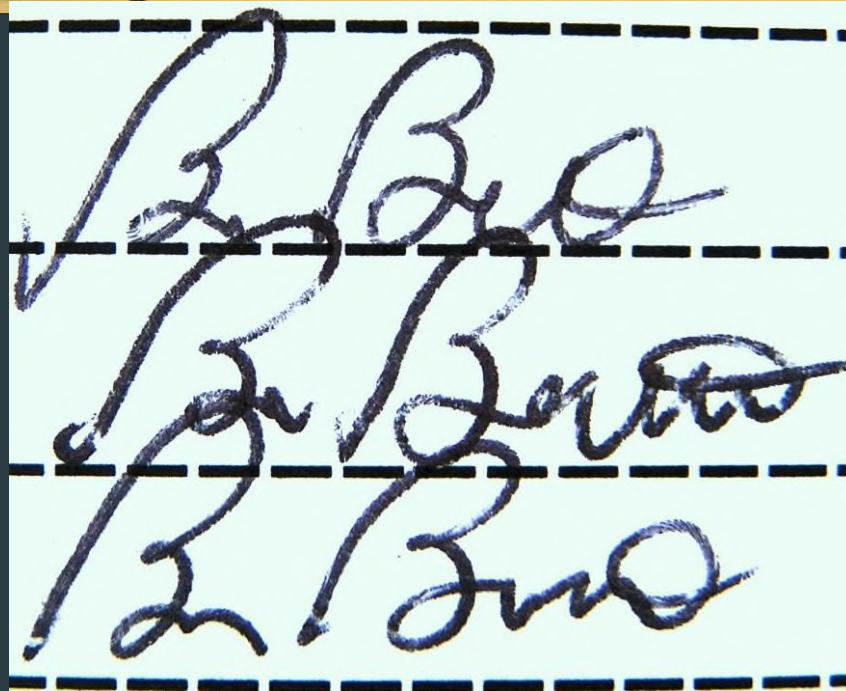
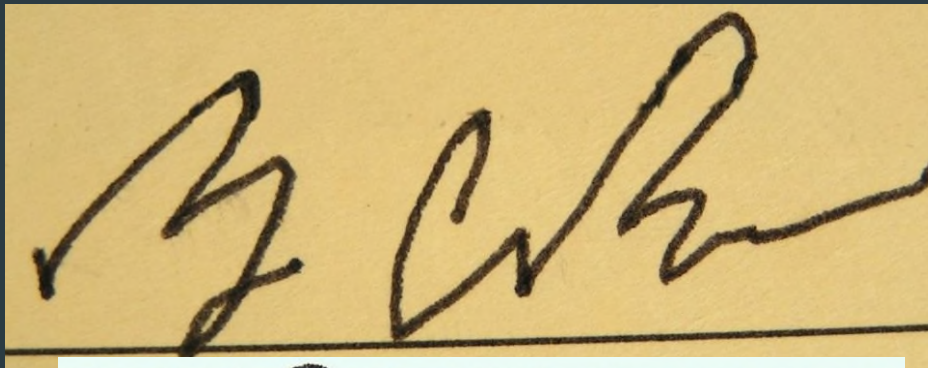
# Disguise / Simulation

## 22. Similar spacing / More variable spacing



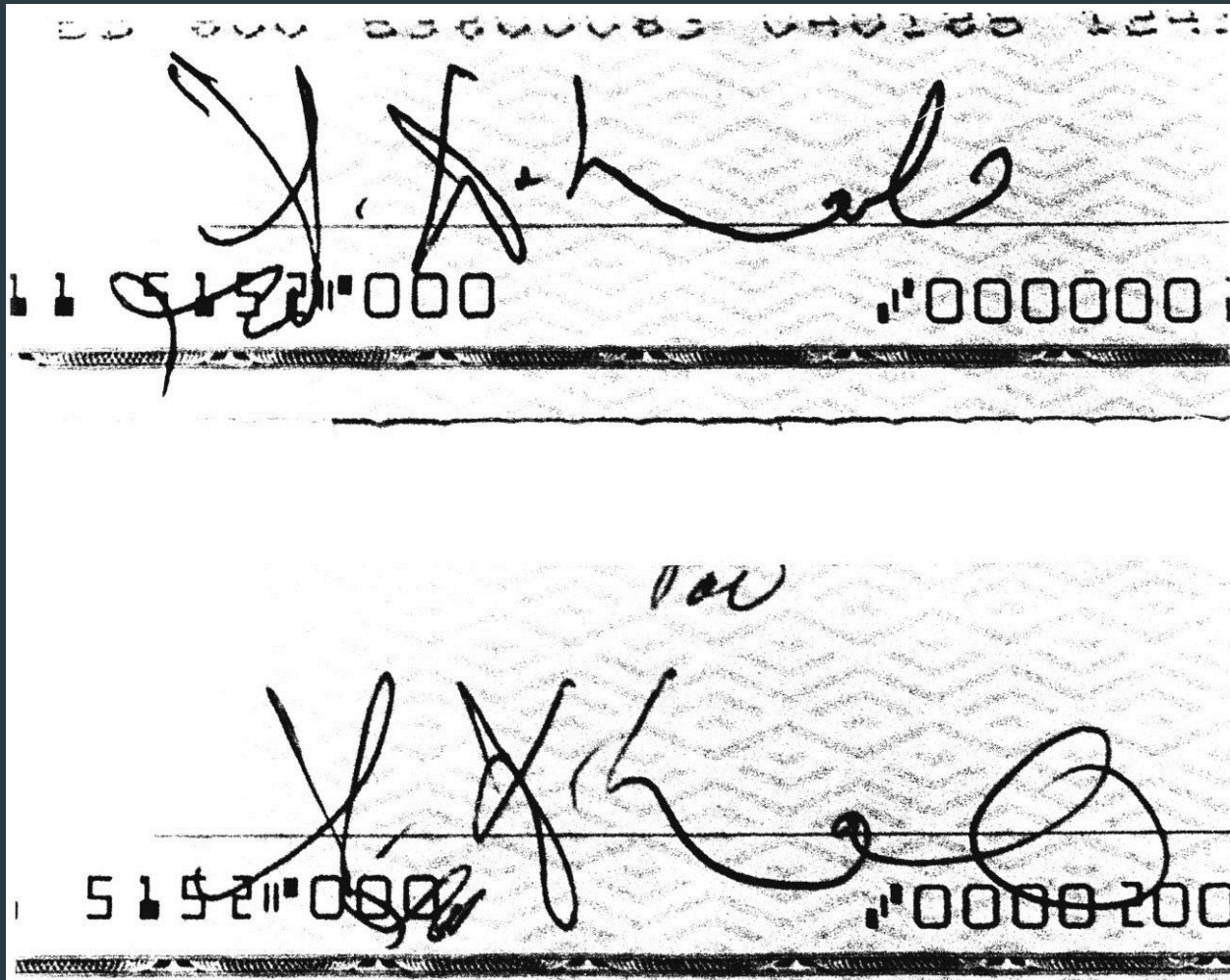
# Disguise / Simulation

## 23. Similar line quality / Poor line quality



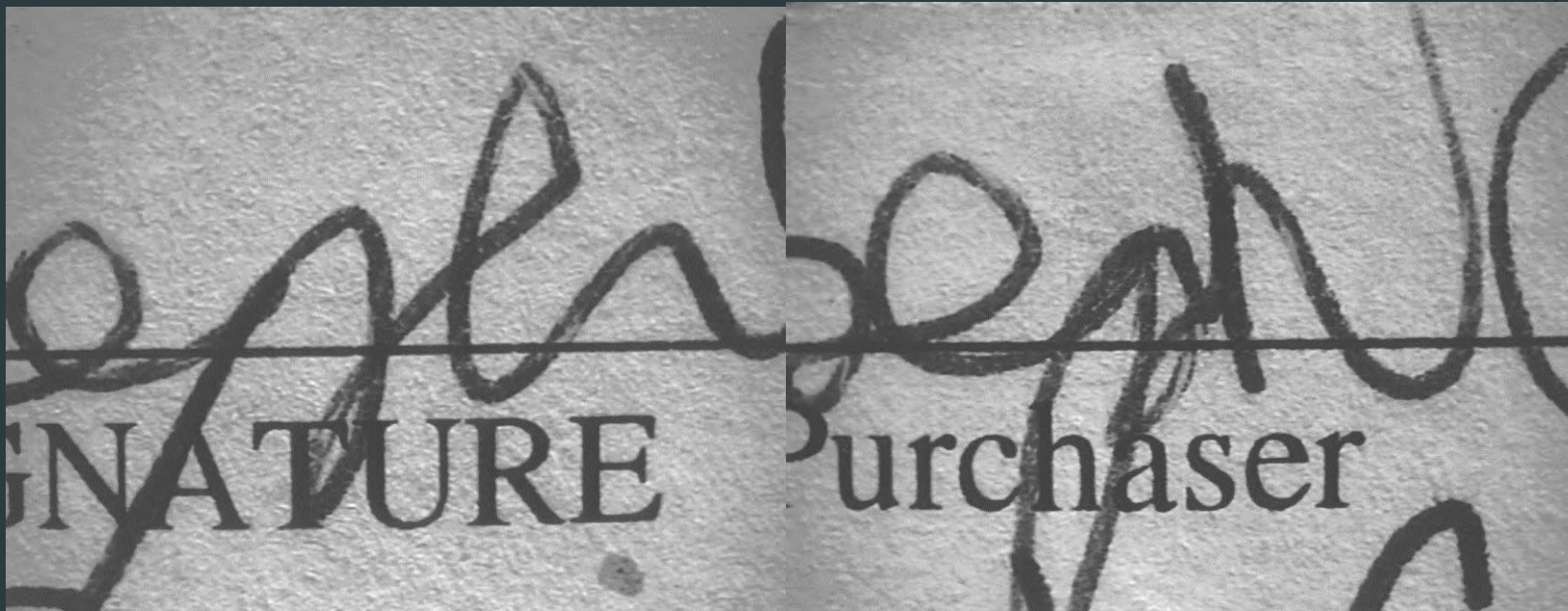
# Disguise / Simulation

## 24. Similar margins / Different margins

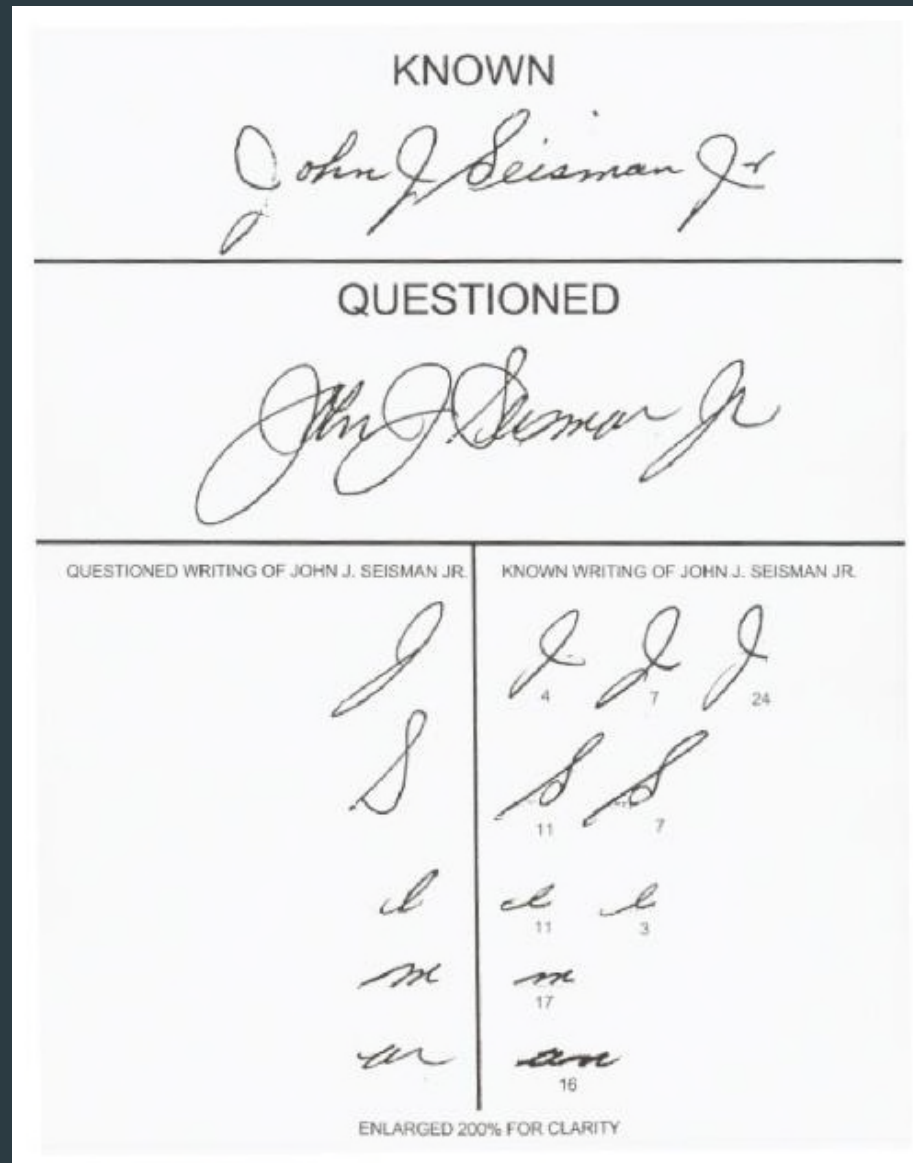


# Disguise / Simulation

25. Similar pressure patterns /  
Different pressure patterns



# Disguised or Simulated?



# Disguised or Simulated?

## QUESTIONED

~~Dennis A. Campbell~~  
~~Dennis A. Campbell~~

## KNOWN

K-1

Dennis A. Campbell

K-2

Dennis A. Campbell

K-3

Dennis A. Campbell

K-4

Dennis A. Campbell

K-5

Dennis A. Campbell