Obama vs. Romney
Graphological Evaluation

By
Joel Engel

President Obama
Mitt Romney

Personality
How They Measure Up
The flowing nature of President Obama's handwriting suggests rhythm, bounce and charm. His huge signature is eye-catching. Graphologically speaking, this reflects a tremendous desire to be the center of attention. Combined with the openness on top of the "a" (see A), which indicates fluency, the commander-in-chief radiates self-confidence and energy and is a quick-witted speaker. The rightward extensions at the end of his first and last names (B1, B2) are like a self-portrait showing that there is more to him than just a name.

Mitt Romney's capacity to relate is bleak. His signature has abrupt endings (G1, G2). This signifies being short with others. The two hooks reflect stubbornness (H1, H2). Dashes (I1, I2) reveal a (usually subconscious) desire to be unsocial, especially when they vary from the standard (forward slashes). The disproportionately distant and disconnected T bar (J) shows personal detachment. These combined traits produce feeling awkward in public.

Intellect
Tale of the tapes
A small middle zone (C1, C2) in his John Hancock represents strong powers of concentration. People who have small middle-zone letters (a, c, e and any letter that does not have an upper or lower loop), possess great proficiency in doing work, requiring attention to detail. Many scientists, Einstein among them, have very small or even microscopic middle-zone letters. These lines are also written in a wavy fashion, without distinct shape. This shows changeability. The diplomat, who must often evade ticklish situations and not commit to a particular course of action, writes in this manner. Wavy-lined writing also denotes versatility. There are no beginning strokes in Obama’s signature (see D). This signifies someone who gets right down to the point without commotion. It is the handwriting of the mature individual.

The Republicans’ presumptive candidate for the presidency’s middle zone is also small (K). What is unique is that he connects from this area to the upper zone (L, instead of the routine middle zone). Although avoiding the social (middle zone) area, this man’s thought processes are purely intellectual. This combination (a small middle zone and the strokes connecting to the upper zone) is found only in exceedingly perceptive personalities. Many letters are shaped as numbers (M1 as a 2, M2 as a 7, etc) which disclose mathematical aptitude. His rightward slant informs us that he can use his gifted brainpower aggressively.

Parental Relationship
Honor Thy Father...
Disproportionately heavy pressure is placed upon the horizontal stroke (E1), as the vertical stroke (E2) is written comparatively more lightly. The reverse is the norm. Writing in a downward direction predominantly employs the flexor muscles, whereas in a rightward direction, the extensor muscles are primarily used. The flexor muscles are stronger than the extensors, normally producing heavier pressure. A heavier horizontal than vertical axis indicates that the mother is the actively domineering or aggressive head of the family; the father remains relatively weak and ineffectual, though perhaps a man of intellectual stature, or he may be hated, dead or absent. This handwriting characteristic indicates a child who feels neglected or overpowered by the mother, depending on whether her love is lacking or overwhelming. Typically, writers who put most of their pressure in the horizontal axis cannot conceive of their own limitations - nor can they stop “making the best of themselves” (overcompensation). The way a man signs his first name reveals 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 represents him. The capital letter of Obama is written considerably smaller than the capital of Barack, an indication of disrespect toward his father. It is well known that a son who has no respect for his father tends to reject authority. When meeting with world leaders behind closed doors, this trait of Mr. Obama might irritate his counterparts.

The former governor writes the initial ‘R’ of his last (father’s) name considerably larger and more prominently than his own given name (M1). He has great respect and admiration for his father. He is not challenged by giving dignity to others.

Leadership
TKO
How one learns to write and how one’s writing varies inform the graphologist as to what is distinctive about the writer. A script cannot be classified as a mere variation when the writer invents a unique form. This has the utmost significance when constructed in one’s signature. This is a symbolic, and usually subconscious, self-evaluation. Obama writes the capital letter of his surname as a circle and bisects it (F). The circle is the symbol for wholeness. Although in mathematics two halves equal a whole, when one feels emotionally split into two parts,
incompleteness and negativity emerge. One who has not resolved heavy personal issues may, albeit subconsciously, not be completely objective when under pressure. Mr. Romney's excessively long and high T bar hovers above (J), indicating a desire to protect (in spite of his aloof character!) His ‘thready’ writing in his surname (O) also betokens diplomacy. His ‘needlepoint’ tops (P1, P2) divulge a sharp witted, analytical and objective perspective.

The Winner

If this author were to keep a scorecard, these points would be attributed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Obama</th>
<th>Romney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellect</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental relation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the tally is quite close, Mitt Romney has the edge.