

RESEARCH ARTICLE

DOES BAD HANDWRITING AFFECT MARKS AT SCHOOL?

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Good handwriting is important and we should start focusing on handwriting from an early age say 4 or 5 years (preschool and kindergarten) because it will help children to gather control of their motor skills and also devise their unique writing styles which will develop as they grow up. Good handwriting will attract attention and appreciation of teachers and peers. Although many researchers have shown that there is a constructive association between good handwriting and better academic performances in addition to that using pen and paper will enhance memory. But there is no doubt that everyone has his own identity and it will not be fair to judge all the students on the basis of their handwriting. Teachers should not show appreciation to those student who have a good handwriting and put the students with bad handwriting a side. Some examiners do focus on the handwriting and consider it while correcting the test paper meanwhile It is not a big mistake if the students don't have a good handwriting. bad handwriting is very much likely to cut our marks for example; when one of the students has a bad handwriting and he has a test and his teacher is not able to read it, then the teacher certainly will give the examiner very few marks which is not the real marks that the student deserved it. It is very much possible that if the student type the answer or even answer it orally, he will get full marks. Marks scored in an examination should not be affected by handwriting, students have a lot of thoughts racing through their minds and writing down them quickly on paper might result in bad handwriting. Besides, few people left-handers and they find it difficult to adjust to everyday life because every equipment in the world is made according to the convenience of the right-handers, in addition to many other factors that will be mention later on. It is not possible to carry a PC in everywhere or to take notes, numbers facts, etc. and in this case we should carry a pocket notebook and pen, therefore we should take care of good handwriting in early stages of our life and our child's life as well as our students.

Obviously there are many factors that can be consider as causes of a bad handwriting such as:

- Mechanical factors: which include; writing instrument, writing surface, the quality of the sheets, the position of the writer(i.e., whether he is standing,

sitting, or trying to write under adverse conditions, the weather (cold or hot), and poor lighting.

- Emotional state of the writer: such as when he is angry or excited, his writing is hurried or expansive , and whether he is in a good mood to write or not.
- Physical well-being will changes writing ability, illness and injuries can alter a person's handwriting , blindness, and aging.
- Psychological factor, that is, the writer's personality ,influences the writing act
- Unfamiliarity with the material being written, these are, foreign words, difficult spelling, and complex concepts.

It is difficult to remediate handwriting that has gone wrong already, but our best chance to help our children and our students is to ensure that they learn to write in the right way the first time. We should see handwriting as a skill of critical importance- as important as math and reading- and teachers as well as parents must make use of specific teaching handwriting activities and extra exercises to improve handwriting for kids.

So, handwriting should not be considered a parameter to gain marks for the students but at the same time students should not write illegibly that even the teacher cannot understand the content of the examination sheets. Handwriting can be only considered when it comes to competing in any art and should not give any preference in the exam.