WHY PENMANSHIP MATTERS

Grades 3 to 5 | Five day research simulation task | Ma'at Standard

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

CENTRAL QUESTION

Why does penmanship matter for learning, communication, and access to historical records?

OBJECTIVE

Use readings, real documents, and your own practice to explain why readable handwriting matters.

DOL

Use two sources and a practice example to explain two reasons handwriting matters. Apply one improvement in an independent message.

Grade	New Jersey ELA	Common Core / CCLS
Grade 3	L.WF.3.3; RI.CR.3.1; W.IW.3.2; W.WP.3.4	RI.3.1; W.3.2; W.3.5; W.3.8
Grade 4	L.WF.4.3; RI.CR.4.1; W.IW.4.2; W.WP.4.4	RI.4.1; W.4.2; W.4.5; W.4.8
Grade 5	L.WF.5.2; RI.CR.5.1; W.IW.5.2; W.WP.5.4	RI.5.1; W.5.2; W.5.5; W.5.8

National alignment uses Common Core / CCLS ELA standards. Interdisciplinary practice: counting and comparing observations, fair investigations, and historical documents. Full task alignment is in the Teacher Guide.

Use Workbook pages 1 to 24 for guided practice and later revisits. Your teacher chooses an appropriate amount. Drawing, oral rehearsal, adapted tools, and documented accommodations support access.

Vocabulary: penmanship, legible, model, space, practice, revise, manuscript, cursive, transcription, fluency, evidence.

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DAY 1 | WHY WRITE CLEARLY?

Objective: Explain how handwriting serves a reader.

DOL: Point to or cite two features that help a reader.

DO NOW

What makes a written message easy for you to read?

SOURCE A. Legibility serves the reader

Penmanship is the skill of writing by hand. Its practical goal is legibility: a reader can recognize the letters, words, and numbers. A message may contain a useful idea yet remain difficult to use if a reader cannot identify its words. Letter formation, spacing, alignment, and consistent size are features a writer can examine and revise.

Writing also involves planning ideas, choosing words, spelling, and constructing sentences. The Institute of Education Sciences recommends instruction in handwriting fluency alongside spelling, sentence construction, typing, and word processing. Handwriting is one part of a larger writing process. A readable draft helps a writer and a partner return to the ideas for revision.

Source basis: S1, S5; original instructional synthesis. Wording adapted for instruction.

QUICK WRITE

How do letter shapes and spaces help a reader understand a message?

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1. Explain a cause and effect relationship in this source. Cite a specific detail.

Practice connection: Workbook 2 to 6. Compare manuscript and cursive forms.

Exit ticket: Name one feature you will check in your next attempt.
