Title of Lab: Analysis of Ransom Note

Purpose(s) of Lab: The son of a wealthy computer guru has been kidnapped from his home. The house includes a security system that video monitors all activity. Four different people had accessed to the house on the day of the kidnapping besides the father and mother of the child. Each of the 4 people are now suspects and have submitted exemplars for comparison to the ransom note. Your job it to collect data to match the handwriting sample and catch the culprit before any harm can come to the missing child.

Materials:

- PDF of Exemplars and Ransom Note

Procedure:

1. Download the PDF of the Exemplars from the suspects and the ransom note…you will probably want a printed copy so you can write on it and make side by side comparisons.
2. As you make your observations of each handwriting sample, complete the data table.
3. Determine which suspect wrote the ransom note.
4. Answer all analysis questions.

Data:

Comparing Exemplars with Ransom Note

Observations	Comments				
	Suspect 1	**Suspect 2**	**Suspect 3**	**Suspect 4**	**Ransom Note**
Is the writing in cursive, print, or combination of both?					
Are the lines smooth or shakey?					
Do capital letters only appear at the beginning of a sentence or name or are there randomly distributed capital letters throughout the text?					
Do the capital letters "connect" to the lower case letters that follow?					
Are any letters left open, such as o's or a's? Which ones?					
Does the pressure applied appear to be consistent or does it vary? (Example…lighter pressure at end of a word.)					
Is there a slant? Which direction, right or left?					
Are there fancy curls or loops? If so, which letters?					
Are all "i"s dotted? If so, how? Right, left, center? Are there any notable features like a circle or a dash?					
Are all the "t"s crossed? If so, how? Right, left, center? Are there any fancy tails or circles?					