

Taken from FB Courtney's Lessons in Dashy Writing. For more on Courtney see:
<http://www.zanerian.com/FBCourtney.html>

HOW TO HOLD THE PEN.

The manner of holding the pen comes next. Let us study illustrations 3, 4, and 5 very carefully. No. 3 shows how the penholder is held between the second finger and the thumb. No. 4 shows the under part of the hand as it is when ready for action. No. 5 shows the relative position of the fingers and how they are brought under the palm of the hand. There is but little difference between the appearance of the hand when holding the pen correctly, and when at rest with the fingers partly closed. Of course it is understood that no two hands are made alike, so you are not expected to make your hand look like those in the illustrations. But it is the general principles of correct pen holding that you should study and apply.

Illustration No. 6 shows both sides of the arm when in position for writing, and illustrates further the holding of the pen. Notice how the arm rests on the large muscle below the elbow, that the wrist and hand are absolutely free from the desk, and the third and fourth fingers serve as a vehicle on which the hand rides lightly over the paper in whatever way the mind directs. Study your hand carefully and then the illustration. When you have caught the idea you have already learned how to hold your pen, one of the first essentials of dashy writing.