

Taken from The Report of Proceedings of the First Annual Convention of the Zanerian Penmanship Association held in Columbus, Ohio July 1-3, 1914.....Joe Vitolo

Becoming Professionals (Penmen)

Mr. E. A. Lupfer, instructor in the Zanerian, had for his subject "Technical Details that Develop Professional Ability." Some of the details enumerated were as follows:

Angles. These should be the same, and all retraced the same distance. This is true of either professional or business writing.

Slant. The exact slant is immaterial, but all letters should be on the same slant. For attractive professional writing, "the more slant you get the better it is." For public school writing don't slant the letters quite as much as for professional writing.

Height. All minimum letters should be the same, and all loops should be the same. It is helpful to draw a headline occasionally, to see whether the letters are all the same height.

Spacing. This is very important for fine writing. In beginning work it is well to practice on wide spacing, in order to cultivate strength in writing. Later, practice on a compact style in order to develop a push and pull movement. In practical writing don't go to the extreme either way. Space values should be equal; that is, the letters should look to be the same distance apart. But this must be gauged by the eye, for if the space is measured the writing will look too mechanical.

Arrangement. Not how much skill you have, but how much brains you use in applying that skill. Study carefully the arrangement of letters, papers, etc., noticing how the work is placed on the page the margins and other details.

Criticize one thing at a time. Take a piece of writing, look at the angles, and then rewrite, endeavoring to improve them. Then notice slant, then height, and so on.

We, as, teachers, need to have a high ideal of the forms of the letters. How poor would lie the world of penmanship if it were not for the fine penmen! Penmanship as an art will not die for many years; not until we penmen allow our ideals to fall so low that we disgrace the term "penmen."