Letter a Quote Card with Two Pen Styles

One measured card and two contrasting original handwriting practice lanes

These are original printable digital guides for adult paper crafts. Steadleaf Press has created the lettering grid, samples, practice strokes, and vector outlines digitally. No physical printing, writing, ink-resistance, drying, cutting, folding, or user-legibility trial has been performed. The stated dimensions are calculated, not measured from a finished card. Use safe scissors and writing supplies according to their labels, and keep sharp edges, permanent inks, and cleaning products away from children.

A small piece of writing can have two different voices

The same short sentence can feel matter-of-fact in clear, evenly spaced capitals and personal in relaxed, slightly slanted letters. This exercise asks you to compare those two treatments before committing to a final quote card. You do not need commercial calligraphy tools. A fine-tip writing pen and a smooth broad-tip pen, or two ordinary pens with visibly different line weights, provide enough contrast. The objective is control and legibility, not imitation of a named calligrapher's proprietary lettering design.

You will use the first original printable sheet to practise straight strokes, rounded bowls, slants and consistent spaces. The second sheet has a full-size 150 x 100 mm landscape card frame and faint writing guides. Both are accompanied by a printable maker record. There are no cut-outs inside the card, no adhesive hinges and no structural parts. The design is for an expendable greeting or display card in a dry environment, not a postal service specification or permanent archival housing.

The original sample quotation for this exercise is "A quiet page still makes room for a beginning." It is a newly written teaching example, not a line attributed to a famous writer. You may use that sentence as printed or replace it with your own short sentence. If you use a poem, song lyric, artwork, or quote written by somebody else, check copyright, context, permissions and accurate attribution before distributing a copy. An author name should never be invented to make a card seem more meaningful.

Read the measured card before writing

The intended card is a single, flat landscape rectangle, 150 mm wide by 100 mm tall. Put the origin at the lower-left corner of the full-size cut line. A pale safe writing rectangle runs from x = 10 to 140 mm and y = 9 to 91 mm, giving 130 x 82 mm. That leaves 10 mm at both sides and 9 mm at the top and bottom. These guides are light grey, not cuts, window openings or folds.

Within that safe field, a heading band occupies y = 66..91 mm, or 25 mm high. A main text band occupies y = 19..62 mm, or 43 mm high. A small optional source/date line fits at y = 9..16 mm, 7 mm high. The 4 mm blank interval between the main band and the heading, and the 3 mm blank interval above the optional source line, keep styles apart. Nothing needs to be squeezed into all three zones. If the sample sentence is too long for your actual handwriting, use a shorter one or move a continuation to the reverse rather than reducing the size until it cannot be read.

A printable practice page has two 120 x 36 mm working lanes. In each lane, pale horizontal baselines are drawing aids only: the first lane encourages upright monoline capitals, and the second lane encourages gently slanted, moderately thicker downstrokes. The lane edges are not to be cut out. The only full-size cut on the second page is the 150 x 100

mm card perimeter. The PDF prints at actual size on both A4 and US Letter, but printer margins can still crop a mark, so each template page has a separate 50 mm calibration bar.

Prepare a simple, low-risk lettering station

Choose smooth uncoated paper or foldable craft card around 160-220 gsm as a starting comparison, not a guarantee of ink performance. Keep a millimetre ruler, pencil, eraser compatible with your card, two contrasting writing pens, ordinary scissors, a clean scrap sheet, and absorbent waste paper close by. If a pen uses permanent ink, work on a protected surface and follow its label. Avoid heated embossing, blades, solvents, open flame, pressurised sprays, or ink mixtures for this basic exercise. A page that cannot be written on cleanly can still be used for pencil practice.

Print the corresponding A4 or Letter template at Actual Size / 100% and disable Fit, Shrink, or a browser's automatic resizing. Verify that the 50 mm reference measures 50 mm on BOTH sheets, not just one. Check all four edges of the 150 mm card frame. If a print is scaled, discard its dimensional accuracy; correct the setting or redraw the numeric measurements using your own ruler. Adobe Acrobat's page-sizing help explains actual size versus page fitting but does not certify your specific printer.

Before writing on the final card, test the intended pen on a scrap of the same stock. Draw one short line, a wide curve, and a filled small circle. Allow them to dry according to their actual behaviour before rubbing the back of the sheet. The purpose is to detect visible feathering, smearing, show-through, or poor contrast. The publisher has not tested any pen or paper combination and cannot predict the result from gsm alone.

Compare two hand-lettering styles without losing readability

Style A - upright, even monoline. Draw one consistent-weight stroke, using an ordinary fine-tip pen. Practise vertical stems, a round O, a diagonally formed A, and three short words with spaces at least as open as a narrow lowercase letter. Keep letters mostly upright, write slowly, and pay attention to the distance between their visible edges. The design can feel orderly without ruler-straight perfection; consistency matters more than speed.

Style B - gently slanted, varied emphasis. Use the other pen or vary pressure only if the pen is designed for it. Practise a 10-degree approximate slant on paper, but treat the angle as a visual teaching guide, not a mechanically verified precision mark. Place emphasis on selected downward strokes while keeping counters (the open spaces in letters such as a, e and o) readable. A thicker pen may require fewer words per line. Do not combine wildly different slants in one sentence simply because a reference image looks decorative.

Both styles can suit the original quote. To compare fairly, first write exactly the same words in both lanes on the practice sheet. Record which version is easier to read at arm's length and which better matches the intended recipient. If the thick pen bleeds or the light pen disappears on patterned card, change the material rather than pretending the style alone fixes the problem.

Make your full-size quote card

1. Choose a sentence that is your own, public-domain, or otherwise licensed for the intended use. Write the words in plain text and check punctuation and spelling before drawing a decorated version.
2. Choose A4 or Letter as appropriate, print both original template pages at 100%, and measure their separate 50 mm bars. Never assume two pages printed in one job were scaled identically.

3. Identify the first page's two 120 x 36 mm practice lanes. The upper lane is for upright monoline; the lower is for the more slanted/emphasised style. Practise the same short quotation in both lanes before deciding.

4. On spare material, check how the two pen tips respond to the chosen paper. Test colour contrast, drying, and whether pencil guide lines can be removed without lifting colour.

5. Compare your two samples at an ordinary reading distance. Circle the one that is easier to read. If neither is comfortable, choose a plain single-weight pen, shorten the line, or enlarge the available writing area by redesigning the card rather than ignoring the boundaries.

6. On the full-size card sheet, identify the outer 150 x 100 mm solid cut line and the faint 130 x 82 mm internal safe-area rectangle. The internal lines are not cuts. If tracing to a different card, transfer the outer outline and light centre guides only.

7. Score nothing: this card is intentionally flat. Cut the outer rectangle with ordinary scissors only after confirming its complete border and accurate print scale. Keep the pen and cutting work separate so wet ink cannot smear onto fingers.

8. Draft a short heading such as "A SMALL BEGINNING" in the upper y66..91 mm band, or leave that band blank. Keep at least a little space above and below the visible letters.

9. Lightly pencil the main quote within the y19..62 mm band. Aim for two or three readable lines rather than a single crowded line; the exact line breaks depend on your real pen and handwriting.

10. Letter the selected version slowly, using the practice lane as a rhythm reference rather than tracing a copyrighted font. Avoid writing on the pale boundary if your pen spreads.

11. If the quotation has an actual source you are permitted to credit, place a concise accurate attribution in the y9..16 mm line. For the guide's original sample, "STP original example" is an optional label; do not present an invented author as real.

12. Wait for ink to dry before erasing visible pencil guides or stacking cards. If it smears, start fresh on different expendable paper; do not rub it harder or spray it with an improvised chemical sealant.

13. Read the card aloud and then silently from a comfortable distance. Check legibility of similar-looking letters, line breaks and punctuation. Make a written record of the chosen pen, paper and any change to margins.

14. Place the card flat in a clean dry folder until gifting or display. The pattern does not make the card waterproof, lightfast, framed, certified archival or suitable for food contact.

Common failures and meaningful improvements

If the first word looks larger than the last, examine your practice lane's letter height before narrowing later words. If line spacing collapses, draw two light guidelines using your actual measured band and erase them when safe. A quote may be visually balanced by leaving space around it; filling every part of the 130 x 82 mm safe rectangle is not a goal. Long quotations belong on a larger card or additional page.

A slanted pen treatment can look graceful but can also become illegible when all letters lean differently. Keep the main axis steady and refrain from decorative connections that turn one word into another. If the heavier pen causes feathering, change stock or pen; increasing paper grammage alone does not guarantee a better result. When an ink is labelled permanent, heed its own handling and disposal directions rather than using household solvents to remove a

stain.

If a 50 mm bar prints at 48 mm, the scale is 48/50 = 0.96. A nominal 150 mm card then becomes 144 mm wide. That is a calculated example, not a measurement of a physical copy made by Steadleaf Press. Refuse unintended scaling and update the record honestly. Keep actual measurements distinct from your intended dimensions.

Treat attribution as part of the design. Giving a famous name to an unattributed short saying is not a harmless artistic flourish. If the source cannot be verified and reuse rights are uncertain, write a fresh original phrase. A private recipient's address, full name or personal story does not belong in a publicly shared template or posted photo without their agreement.

References, original work and limitations

Adobe Acrobat Help, page sizing and actual-size print settings: https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/desktop/print-documents/set-up-and-print-pdfs/page-size.html . This supports a printing distinction, not any claim of printer precision.

Library of Congress, care of paper: https://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/paper.html . General context for handling valuable paper; this card is an ordinary expendable craft, not a preservation-grade enclosure.

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Printable measured pattern pages and the original maker record follow in the complete free PDF.

Printable full-size patterns and original maker records follow. No physical prototypes were made or tested.

TWO HAND-LETTERING PRACTICE LANES

Both lanes are 120 x 36 mm. Pale guides are for writing only - do not cut.

Write the SAME original words once in each style; compare legibility.

A / UPRIGHT MONOLINE

A QUIET PAGE

B / GENTLE SLANT + EMPHASIS

A quiet page

Mark the easier-to-read sample on the maker record.

Measured lanes are NOT perforations, cutouts or adhesive zones.

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a physical ruler

FULL-SIZE QUOTE CARD / 150 x 100 mm

150 x 100 mm outer CUT ONLY. Inside: x10..140, y9..91 (130 x 82).

Heading y66..91 (25 mm). Quote y19..62 (43 mm). Source y9..16 (7 mm).

The printed phrase is an ORIGINAL sample; no attributed outside quotation.



Do not cut or fold the light internal guides. Keep the card FLAT.

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a physical ruler

MAKER RECORD / PAGE 1

Chosen original or licensed quote and source

Paper stock / pen A / pen B

Actual Size A4 or Letter, measured 50 mm bars

Two practice lanes 120 x 36 mm

Final outer card 150 x 100 mm

Writing field 130 x 82 mm; three bands

Selected readable style and drying notes

Record only observations you made. PUBLISHER PHYSICAL TEST: NOT PERFORMED.

Uncertain permissions or actual NOT TESTED items

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a physical ruler



MAKER RECORD / PAGE 2

Which measured pattern did you use and at what scale?

What was different about your real paper / fabric / pen?

Where did a fold, mark, knot or stitch differ from plan?

Which tool or setup made work easier or harder?

What remains physically untested or uncertain?

What would you change on a second attempt?

What were the actual measured outcomes, if any?

Record only observations you made. PUBLISHER PHYSICAL TEST: NOT PERFORMED.

Date / version / needle count and safe storage

50 mm SCALE CHECK - measure with a physical ruler

