

NOTES ON

HEARER PRESUPPOSITIONS AND THE ART OF LANGUAGE BASED PROFILING

Section 8

Formatting UFs in Brokaw Anthrax Letter And Their Associated Hearer Presuppositions And Implications

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In this Section, we illustrate the proposed approach as it relates to *Formatting UFs*, noting HPs associated with selected Formatting UFs in the Brokaw Anthrax letter. In the following Section 9, we remark on hearer presuppositions associated with selected *Stylistic UFs* in this Brokaw Anthrax Letter, where we indicate, as we do here for Formatting UFs in the sections. various HPs associated with each UF selected.

1.2. We repeat: HPs are associated with selected Formatting UFs of the utterance U (the Brokaw Anthrax letter) relative to the hearer's understanding U* of U and understanding C* of the context C in which U occurs which includes the understanding of C as a letter.

1.3. Recall (from Section 2) that Formatting UFs concern the graphic form of an utterance relative to the hearer's understanding of that utterance and of the context in which it occurs. If written (as the Brokaw Anthrax letter is), it includes considerations such as whether the utterance is typed or handwritten and if so, whether its characters, sentences, paragraphs, margins, and spacing, are well formed and uniform, whether and what type of special linguistic and non-linguistic symbols it exhibits and, if a communication, whether it includes date, salutation, complimentary close, and signature. Examples of Formatting UFs are given in Appendix A, where they are listed as F1 through F80.

1.4. Since Formatting UFs concern the graphic character of an utterance, we exhibit the Brokaw Anthrax letter below for easy reference:

09-11-01

THIS IS NEXT

TAKE PENACILIN NOW

DEATH TO AMERICA

DEATH TO ISRAEL

ALLAH IS GREAT

2. HPS ASSOCIATED WITH FORMATTING UFS IN THE BROKAW ANTHRAX LETTER AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS (IMPS)

**(a) UF: “Graphical Variation in Character Size and Emphasis.”
(Certain characters are written larger than others and/or are over-written in such a manner as to appear darker.)**

Level 1 HP: S intended to make certain words stand out for the hearer’s notice.

IMP: Over-written characters appear to have been imposed in a final draft, perhaps as an afterthought, rather than having been carried over from earlier drafts.

IMP: The characters were probably written slowly and the entire letter written laboriously.

IMP: Over-writing selected characters was probably imposed with some felt strain on S.

Level 2 HP: S intended his style of writing to communicate his exercise of focus and control. (Analogous to that conveyed by an oral communication sharply articulated.)

IMP: S was probably aware of the effect that these graphic characteristics of the letter would have on the hearer, and took care to produce them.

IMP: The hand-printed text exhibits the energy and control with which S creates each character, and reflects the pressure imposed by the writing instrument on the page. We do not believe that his doing so was accidental, say as the effect of some psychological or physical dysfunction, but rather regard this as intentional, that is, imposed to have a particular effect on the letter recipient.

(c) UF: “First Characters in Selected Words Emphasized.” (The first characters in the words, "Penacilin," "Now," "America," and "Israel" are rendered slightly larger than the other alphabetic characters in the letter.)

Level 1 HP: By writing these characters slightly larger than other alphabetic characters in the letter, S intends to indicate their relative importance of the words in which they occur without explicitly mentioning the basis for that importance.

IMP: S is inclined to communicate more by implication than by explicit mention, suggesting a “passive-aggressive” personality

(d) UF: “Dominant Numeric Characters.” (The numeric characters in the expression “9-11-01” are written larger than the letter characters in the body of the text body, and the expression itself is further distinguished by being centered at the top of the page.

Level 1 HP: S intends to communicate that the date is the most important part of the letter, and that the letter is a follow-up to the WTC incident of that date.

IMP: S further exhibits an inclination to communicate more by implication than by explicit mention.

(e) UF: “Grouping of Contents by Line Spacing.” (A slightly wider spacing: (i) sets off the date (Line 1) from Lines 2 and 3, (ii) sets off Lines 2 and 3 from Lines 4 and 5, and sets off Lines 4 and 5 from line 6, effectively dividing the letter into four paragraphs consisting of one, two, two, and one line, respectively and a narrow spacing within each of the two line paragraphs.)

Level 1 HP: S believes that the content of the lines in each grouping are related and to be distinguished as such, and intends to induce the hearer to so regard them.

IMP: S seeks to organize his letter in a minimal form consistent with its supporting the subdivisions as indicated.

IMP: S is compulsive and detailed.

IMP: There were probably several drafts of this letter prior to the final one when S finally arrived at one that suited his purposes.

IMP: S knew precisely what he wanted to convey in his letter.

(f) UF: “Grouping of Sentences by Alterations in Line Spacing.” (A slightly wider spacing sets off the date (Line 1) from Lines 2 and 3, and setting off Lines 2 and 3 from Lines 4 and 5, and then setting off lines 4 and 5 from line 6, which effectively divides the letter into four paragraphs consisting of one, two, two, and one line, respectively and a narrow spacing within each of the two line paragraphs.)

Level 1 HP: S believes that the content of the lines within each grouping are related and to be distinguished as such, and intends to induce the hearer to so regard them.

IMP: S seeks to organize his letter in a minimal form consistent with its supporting the subdivisions as indicated.

IMP: S is detailed and purposeful.

IMP: There were probably several drafts of this letter prior to the final one when S finally arrived at one that suited his purposes.

(g) UF: “Geometrically Patterned Text.” (Aside of the date which is centered at the top of the page, the remaining sentences appear roughly as a block aligned on the left.)

Level 1 HP: S intended to highlight the date as significant

IMP: The form of the letter is important for this writer.

Level 1 HP: S chose this unusual way to format the overall appearance of the letter with the intention of imposing a tight, compact physical appearance.

IMP: The imposition of geometric-like appearance appears to reflect a highly focused writer.

Level 1 HP: S intended to render his letter in as compact a form as possible and yet to have it subdivided as indicated.

IMP: This further suggests that there were probably several drafts of this letter, S finally arriving at one that suited his purposes.

(h) UF: “Matched Sentence Patterns.” (The letter consists of six lines, each line consisting of exactly three words (including the date as month-date-year).)

Level 1 HP: S intended to structure his sentences in the specific pattern indicated, and believed that the imposed internal connections among its parts would help induce the hearer to take the letter seriously.

IMP: This further suggests that there may have been earlier drafts of this letter having other patterns before one was honed down to have this one.

IMP: S is as concerned with form as much as with substance.

General Implications of the Formatting UFs (a) through (i) and of the HPs Associated with them:

IMP: The focus and control S exhibits in the Brokaw Anthrax Letter suggest that he has the resolve to send out more letters of this type.

IMP: The energy behind the writing of this letter and the considerations made in drafting it would not be likely to dissipate with the mailing of this one letter.

IMP: On the other hand, there is no evidence in this letter that S has the capability to do more than he has already done, that is to do more than insert Anthrax spores in envelopes and mail them with or without a message

to selected targets, for S makes no reference to possessing, accessing, or fabricating any other contaminating or destructive agents of any kind.

IMP: In the absence of any such reference, we incline to the belief that he has no such broader capability. If this writer had the capability to do more than send out Anthrax laden letters of this kind, this Brokaw Anthrax letter would have been an opportune place to at least remark it (which this writer has not done).

IMP: Nor does it appear that this writer has the resolve to do more than send out such letters; indeed, his focus in crafting the form of this letter suggests that it could well afford him a template after which to model further Anthrax laden communications of this type, rather than to attempt other types of contamination threats involving Anthrax.

(j) UF: “Omission of Salutation”¹

Level 1 HP: S does not intend this letter as personal to Brokaw Anthrax letter.

IMP: Brokaw being targeted is symbolic and representative.

IMP: Writer chose Brokaw as addressee because of Brokaw’s media reputation and connections.

IMP: Writer is interested in maximal publicity to come from this letter.

(k) UF: “Omission of Complimentary Close.”

Level 1 HP: S does not intend to show any personal link to Brokaw, hence to render the letter wholly impersonal.

IMP: Brokaw appears to have been chosen, not for any journalistic position which Brokaw may have taken, but because Brokaw is a prominent member of the media and his receipt of an Anthrax letter would assure wide media exposure.

Level 2 HP: S has no intention to suggest any relationship with Brokaw or any other person, or to acknowledge any sort of connection with anyone.

IMP: S's only implied connections are those between himself, the WTC incident, America, Israel, and Allah.

(l) UF: "Omission of Signature."

Level 1 HP: S intends the letter as appearing to have issued from no particular personalized source that has any connection with Brokaw.

IMP: No human agency or interest is implied.

(m) UF: "Lack of Pronouns with Human Referent." (Pronouns such as "I," "you," "we," "they," etc. do not occur in this letter)

Level 1 HP: S intends his letter to be wholly impersonal.

IMP: This suggests that S has no negative feelings toward Brokaw and is using him simply as a convenient media conduit.

(n) UF: "Error in Spelling." (Writer misspells "Penicillin" as "Penacilin.)

Level 1 HP: Writer intends to have the hearer believe that he did not know the correct spelling of Penicillin.

IMP: This appears to have been a purposeful attempt to make it appear that S was unfamiliar with the correct English spellings of this critical medication, either because he was not familiar with English or unfamiliar with this medication.

IMP: It would appear that a person who was technically skilled enough to handle Anthrax spores without self contamination and knew enough about Anthrax contamination to know that Penicillin would be a possible way to treat it, would have had sufficient reading knowledge about the use of Penicillin in this regard to have retained awareness of its correct spelling.

IMP: Moreover, there are a number of indicators (as noted earlier) that this writer appears intelligent and educated, indicators which are at stark variance with this egregious spelling error.

IMP: Accordingly, we are inclined to believe that this writer was dissembling ignorance of this word's correct spelling, perhaps to give an appearance of foreign origins..

5. HPS ASSOCIATED WITH STYLISTIC UFS IN THE BROKAW ANTHRAX LETTER AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS (IMPS)

(a) UF: “Grouping of Parts by Affective Tone.” (The letter is divided into two discrete parts according to their affective tone: the first part (“09-11-01”/“This is next”/“Take Penacilin Now”) is the low-affect substantive part of the letter, and the second part (“Death to America”/“Death to Israel”/“Allah is great”) is the high-affect non-substantive part of the letter.)

Level 1 HP: S believes that this division of the letter into two parts, each having a different character, is effective in inducing the desired impact on the hearer.

IMP: S was probably aware of how authorities might have reacted differently to this letter if this order had been reversed, that is, if the last three lines had occurred first and the first three lines had occurred last. If it were not for the Anthrax spores found in the letter, the letter - given such an order reversal – the letter might have been dismissed, inasmuch as the sort of rhetoric of the last three exhortative sentences is already familiar to authorities and typically associated with hoaxes.

IMP: This suggests that S is an intelligent individual who has sufficient understanding of communication dynamics to fashion a short, terse,

communication that has successfully induced authorities to act immediately to identify the spores as Anthrax.

IMP: S very compactly implies, in turn: (i) that the letter is related to the WTC incident, (ii) that its contents have placed its recipient at immediate hazard, (iii) that S is concerned to help the recipient avoid the worst effect of this hazard, (iv) that S intends to cause deaths in America and (then) to Israel, and (v) that his motivation is a religious one.

IMP: S manipulates the hearer's attention through the first three lines and then to the powdery material in the envelope and then to the letter body, maintaining control over the letter recipient whom he is incrementally conditioning to regard himself as victim.

IMP: This suggests that S has given considerable thought to how he would render and relate the points mentioned above, and suggests further that the letter may have been written in a series of rewrites, where each line and each word in each line was chosen and inserted to maximize the desired effect.

IMP: The brevity of the letter, consisting of a date and five lines following, with each line restricted to three words each, appears to have been purposely imposed by S in order to make the style of the note reinforce the tone of a highly focused message.

IMP: The apparent care given to this mode of organization suggests that S is fairly savvy about language, well beyond that which might be suggested by the awkward graphic style of the letter.

(b) UF: “Movement From Specific To General.” (The Sequence of Initial Words ("This," "Take," "Death," "Death," and "Allah") Goes From Specific ("This") To General ("Allah").)

Level 1 HP: S intends to craft the text of the letter to bring the hearer from the intimacy of "here and now" to the broader implied agenda of anti-U.S. Islamic extremists. That is, S proceeds from intimacy between S and his victim (Brokaw) whom S undertakes to "save" within the context of a world-wide targeting agenda.

IMP: S appears to do so in a graduated and controlled manner that signifies his control over potential death of victims and, generally, over the threat scenario.

(c) UF: “Ambiguous Reference.” (In the assertion of Line 2, "This is next," the words "this" and “next” each appears to ambiguously refer to the letter and to the Anthrax contamination incurred by the recipient upon opening it.)

Level 1 HP: S intends to pose an ambiguity which can only be resolved by the hearer upon an analysis of the material in the envelope the result of which would also clarify the meaning of the next assertion, “Take Penacilin (sic) now.” (If that material turned out to be talcum powder, the ambiguity would remain unresolved.)

IMP: S appears to be an intelligent individual who understands how to manipulate his hearer from an initial puzzlement to gradual resolution.

(d) UF: “Interwoven Referents.” (The assertion of Line 3, "Take Penacilin Now," retroactively inclines the hearer to resolve the referent of "this" in line 2 as something to be administered as protection from the effects of the referent of “this” in Line 2, an entity which has not yet been identified.)

Level 1 HP: S intends that the hearer incrementally determine the referent of “this,” and thus to a gradual realization that the material in the envelope might be a potentially lethal substance.

IMP: While this apparent incremental disclosure of referent may be the accidental product of an unschooled writer, it appears, in conjunction with other aspects of the letter above identified, that S is an intelligent individual who has carefully crafted his letter to have precisely this effect.

(e) UFs: “Mixed Sentence Modes Having Decreasing Content.” (Section that Line 2, “This is next,” is a declarative sentence, that Line 3, “Take Penacilin Now,” is an imperative sentence, that Lines 4 and 5, “Death to America” and “Death to Israel,” are battle-cry exhortations, and that

Line 6 is a religious exhortation. The sentences are thus ordered in order of decreasing content, first a declarative sentence, followed by an imperative sentence, followed then by three rhetorical exhortations. In particular, the last three lines, Lines 4, 5, and 6, are exhortative rather than expressing content but, by virtue of the fact that they are framed in the standard rhetoric of Islamic radical, they have the further function of connecting the content of Lines 2 and 3 to the meaning of Line 1, namely to the WTC incident, which was (even at that time suspected to have been) perpetrated by Islamic radicals.)

Level 1 HP: S intended that these sentences be ordered so as to reflect the decreasing content as described.

IMP: While this ordering by decreasing content may be accidental, it would appear more likely that it was imposed intentionally, and that this writer is an intelligent individual who has carefully crafted his letter to have the desired effect.

(f) UF: “Referencing of Iconic Entities.” (S references entities each of which is iconic in what it represents. These entities are: the WTC (an entity representing the financial center of the U.S.), America, Israel (representing enemies of Islam), and Allah (representing Islam), and Tom Brokaw (representing US media).)

Level 1 HP: S believes that referencing entities with specific symbolic value in the fields of finance, national interest, religion, and media will increase the perceived potential scope of the letter for the hearer.

Level 2 HP: S intends that the contents of his letter be conveyed to a wider audience than Brokaw Anthrax letter or any other immediate hearer.

IMP: S seeks to impact a wide audience.

(g) UF: “Role Shifting.” (Writer shifts from threatener to savior, shifting from an implied threat to kill his victim (Lines 1 and 2 of the letter) followed by an explicit suggestion (Line 3 of the letter) regarding how his victim can save himself.)

Level 1 HP: S intends to play "bad cop/good cop" simultaneously.

Level 2 HP: S's intends this letter as a "warning" to US authorities that this writer has other potential victims in mind and would soon be targeting them, but without any sort of warning as that he afforded Brokaw.

Level 3 HP: S's intention in writing and mailing the letter to Brokaw appears to be to develop a conduit into and through the media to get maximum publicity for his letter.

IMP: S's purpose in threatening and then saving Brokaw Anthrax letter appears to be to demonstrate that Brokaw (whom S probably presumed would be handling the letter and envelope) was not his intended victim. But then the context is incomplete, for what would be the point of this otherwise bizarre "change of heart," would certainly seem inappropriate?

IMP: The answer is probably that S simultaneously intended to make a demonstration of his general power to do lethal damage to anyone he chose, but not to Brokaw who is no more than a "conduit of opportunity" whom he had chosen because of his potential role as a media conduit to the public.

Level 4 HP: S's intention appears to be have been to mount an Anthrax terrorism campaign and read about himself in the papers and perhaps hear himself being reported on television, albeit anonymously.

IMP: S's motivation to do this we would suppose stems from some type of felt distress at what he perceives as others' lack of sufficient respect for him.

IMP: We would expect that this writer would continue his nefarious Anthrax mailings. Since he demands nothing in this letter, there is no response that would discourage him from continuing his mailings.

(h) UF: "Use of Parallel Phrasing." (This is the use of the same phrasing structure in successive sentences)

Level 1 HP: By the parallel phrasing, "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" in the fourth and fifth sentences, S intends that the United States and

Israel are equally culpable targets against which S expresses lethal intent such as is symbolized by his inclusion of Anthrax spores in the letter.

IMP: This parallel phrasing has a cadence which, while stilted and, forced, appears contrived to appear as radical Islamic rhetoric of the kind already popularized in the media.

IMP: S again exhibits his valuing of form over substance.

IMP: This suggests a writer who is unaccustomed to writing communicative threats of any kind and, more generally, a writer who, while apparently intelligent, appears to be an amateur in criminal activities,

(i) UFs: “Use of Exhortations.” (The first three lines, “09-11-01”, “This is Next,” and “Take Penacilin (sic) now,” have content. The last three lines, “Death to America,” “Death to Israel” and “Allah is Great,” by way of contrast, are purely exhortative.)

Level 1 HP: S intends to appear “bigger than he is, in the style of the “Wizard of Oz” through these exhortations.

IMP: These exhortations are so hackneyed that their use is essentially ceremonial, and has little function other than to imply some sort of link with WTC perpetrators.

IMP: S's use of standard Islamic radical rhetoric appears transparently contrived to give the impression that S himself is an Islamic radical somehow affiliated with the perpetrators of the WTC incident.

IMP: The only function they might serve is to reinforce S's image as a person of middle eastern origin, and hence to heighten authorities' potential concern regarding this letter.

IMP: S appears to have no sense regarding the way that his use of such phrases diminish rather than enhance his apparent objective to impress authorities.

(j) UF: “Terminal Exhortations.”

Level 1HP: S believes that the import of the letter needs to be reinforced by these exhortative sentences

IMP: S was concerned that the letter would not be taken serious enough to have the material inserted in the envelope analyzed.

3. HPS ASSOCIATED WITH THEMATIC UFS IN BROKAW ANTHRAX LETTER AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS (IMPS)

(a) UF: “Unspecified Action.” (S omits mention of any future action he intends to perpetrate, or of any past or present action he has been - or is - instrumental in perpetrating.)

Level 1HP: S intends that the hearer infer his (S’s) intentions regarding what actions S intends to perpetrate.

IMP: S here adopts the same “passive– aggressive” disposition we had remarked on earlier, leaving the hearer to reconstruct “figure” from “ground.”

IMP: S appears to purposely adopt an ambiguous and enigmatic phrasing indicating his action more in the style of a riddle to be solved than in the manner of a threat communication.

(b) UF: “Unspecified Target.” (S omits mention of any specific entity toward which his actions are directed.)

Level 1HP: S intends that the hearer infer his (S’s) intended target.

IMP: S adopts a “passive– aggressive” disposition regarding his choice of target, again leaving the hearer to reconstruct “figure” from “ground.”

IMP: S appears to purposely adopt an ambiguous and enigmatic phrasing indicating his target more in the style of a riddle to be solved than in the manner of a threat communication.

(c) UF: “Unspecified Agent.” (S omits mention of any agency which is to perpetrate an action.)

Level 1HP: S intends that the hearer infer aspects of S’s identity or affiliation, and to make sense of S’s implied connection with the perpetrators of the WTC assault.

IMP: By his not explicitly mentioning the agent of the Brokaw Anthrax letter, S makes a weaker case than he could have if he had he explicitly identified the agent of the Brokaw Anthrax letter as, say, the Al Qaeda network some other specific anti-U.S. entity, even if easily discredited.

IMP: S’s electing to imply rather than assert a connection with the TWC incident suggests a forfeiture of impact which in turn suggests that there probably is no connection between the perpetrators of the TWC incident and the Brokaw Anthrax letter incident.

(d) UF: “Recurrent Event.” (The implication that the Brokaw Anthrax letter is part of a sequence of related nefarious actions, is conveyed by use by the opening line, “This is next.”)

Level 1HP: S intends to imply rather than assert that more destructive WTC-type assaults or, at a lesser level, that further such mailings are forthcoming.

IMP: S may have already made preparations for further such mailings.

4. HPS ASSOCIATED WITH REASONING UFS IN BROKAW ANTHRAX LETTER AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS (IMPS)

(a) UF: “Appeal to Force.” (A coercive UF which has the general purpose of intimidating the hearer to accept the conclusions of arguments by threatening the application of some sort of “force”.)

Level 1HP: S intends to induce concern in the hearer that he (the hearer) will be subjected to a force related to and comparable with that which destroyed the WTC on 9-11-01, which might well result in the death of the hearer.

IMP: S believes that without the reference to the WTC incident, the wider implications of his threat - namely, that there is an ongoing and continuing attack on American institutions - will not be believed.

IMP: S expects that his reference to the WTC incident would be more likely to intimidate the hearer than to induce the hearer actually believe that there is some sort of connection between S and the perpetrators of the WTC incident.

Level 1 HP: S intends that the hearer, upon opening the envelope, should take penicillin for protection.

IMP: S intends that the hearer believe himself to be personally under great jeopardy and that he has been placed in such a position by the same interests and for the same purposes as those which motivated the destruction of the WTC towers.

IMP: S intends also to indicate to the hearer that S does not intend the hearer to become his “next” victim, and that he (S) has an agenda that goes beyond the (temporary) risk to which he subjects the hearer, but which he does not intend to specify at this time.

Level 2 HP: S intends to convey that he could have chosen to do otherwise, that is, to have allowed the hearer to die by being contaminated with Anthrax, had he so chosen.

Level 3 HP: S intends to give the appearance of being able to do much more than he has actually done and so the restraint he has shown thus far cannot be counted on in the future.

Level 4 HP: S intends that the letter itself serve as a warning about what S could do if he so chose, not only to this particular recipient victim, but to any individual or assemblage of persons that he chose to put at risk. (Indeed, S's use of a less lethal type of Anthrax spore in this letter as compared to the more lethal type of spore used in later letters attests to the restraint apparently exercised here)

(b) UF: “Appeal to Popular Beliefs”. (A coercive UF which has the general purpose of appealing to popular beliefs in order to establish the conclusion of an argument which the hearer is otherwise unlikely to accept.)

Level 1HP: S believes that reference to beliefs which are popular among a certain group of Islamic extremists (e.g., that the greatness of "Allah" mandates "Death to America and Death to Israel.") are sufficient to explain why the WTC was destroyed on 9-11-01 and why "this" has been selected to be "next."

IMP: It appears unlikely that S himself holds such beliefs.

IMP: It appears more likely that S references such beliefs to make it appear that he himself is an Islamic extremist in order to cause authorities concern about the letter.

(c) UF: "Appeal to Authority.” (A coercive UF which ascribes beliefs to such authorities as S believes would reinforce the intended conclusion of an argument, without documenting the relevant qualifications of those authorities.)

Level 1HP: S believes that citing "Allah" would reinforce the acceptability of his intended conclusion that “death” will be brought unto America and Israel.

IMP: S is more likely to believe that the hearer would not be inclined to accept "Allah" as an authority, so that S must be regarded to be citing "Allah" in this manner for other reasons.

IMP: Such other reasons appear here to include the rhetorical value of such a citation; in other words, we can presume that S is interested in referring to "Allah" for purely rhetorical reasons.

IMP: It is unlikely that S is actually a follower of Islam but is only dissembling so.

(d) UF: “Contestable Suppressed Premise.” (An omission UF which has the general purpose of implying unstated premises in arguments required to establish their conclusions which the hearer is unlikely to otherwise accept. First instance of a contestable suppressed premise in this letter is that there is a connection between the hearer’s receipt of the letter and the WTC incident, which is not stated, but is implicit² in the first and second lines of the letter: “9-11-01” and “This is next.”)

Level 1 HP: S intends that the hearer accept the implied unstated (and potentially contestable) premise that there is a connection between his receipt of the letter and the WTC incident.

Level 2 HP: S intends to indicate that he has an agenda that goes beyond both the letter and the WTC incident.

(e) UF: “Contestable Suppressed Premise.” (Second instance of a contestable suppressed premise is that the hearer is personally and immediately at risk, a premise which is not actually stated but is implicit² in the third line of the letter, “Take penacilin now.”)

Level 1 HP: S intends that the hearer accept the implied unstated (and potentially contestable) premise that the hearer is in some kind of (as yet unknown) jeopardy for which he/she should take penicillin for protection.

IMP: S implies that he does not intend to cause injury to the letter recipient.

IMP: S implies that he could have chosen to do otherwise, that is, to allow the letter recipient to die, had he so chosen.

IMP: S implies that he has an agenda that goes beyond the (temporary) risk to which he subjects the hearer which he does not intend to specify at this time.

IMP: S implies that he is capable of doing much more than he has actually done and so the restraint shown here cannot be counted on in the future. (Indeed, S's use of a less lethal type of Anthrax spore in this letter as compared to the more lethal type of spore used in later letters attests to the restraint implied here).

(f) UF: “Contestable Suppressed Premise.” Third instance of a contestable suppressed premise is that it is the ‘greatness’ of Allah that mandates that ‘death’ be brought unto America and Israel. This premise is not stated but is implicit² in the last three lines of the letter, “Death to America,” “Death to Israel,” and “Allah is great.”)

Level 1 HP: S intends that the hearer believe that S holds radical Islamic beliefs.

Level 2 HP: S intends that the hearer believe that the threatened targeting of America and Israel has a base in radical Islamic beliefs.

Level 3 HP: S intends that the hearer believe that S is of middle eastern origin and of a group that holds radical Islamic beliefs.

IMP: The connection which S attempts to make between himself and Islam is so weakly implied as to suggest that the writer is a home-grown” American dissembling more exotic origins.

UF: “Syntactic Ambiguity.” (An obscurity UF that which uses an expression which purports to have a single meaning in a given context but which can be read in more than one way under an alternative context). Instances of this Obscurity UF are seen in the expressions, "9-11-01," "Allah is great," and "Death to." With respect to the expression, "Death to...," it can have the meaning, "We can or will bring Death to... ," But there are other possible meanings which can be assigned to the expression, "Allah is Great," such as affirming S’s preference for this particular deity, or it can be an expression uttered in the spirit of a battle cry in the context of a religious war which S is part of. There are also other possible meanings to the date "9-11-01," which can be read as the date on which the letter was written or as a reference to the WTC incident

of that date, and so to comprise a substantive line in the letter with a special content and implication of its own.)

Level 1 HP: S intends each of these potentially ambiguous expressions to be accepted as having a clear intended meaning.

IMP: S is unaware the syntactic ambiguities (noted above) and employs them habitually.

IMP: While S appears intelligent, his professional activities do not require a sophisticated language capability.

IMP: If S is professionally situated in a work environment in which he has access to Anthrax spores, we would not expect him to be working at an administrative or managerial level, but more in a “hands-on” capacity.

UF: “Semantic Ambiguity.” (An obscurity UF in which an expression is used as if its meaning was clear or known when, in fact, it is neither. Instances of this Obscurity UF are seen in the expression, “This is next,” and primarily on the word “This,” which can have any of several meanings: one is as a reference to refer to the powdery material in the envelope; another is as a reference to – and a prognostication of - a general assault on more victims; another is in the broad sense of “this kind of thing,” that is, as a sample of the general kinds of assaults of which S and those he is associated with are planning.)

Level 1 HP: The intended meaning (i.e., in this context, the intended reference) of the word “This” is clear.

IMP: S sees no difficulty in leaving the referent of the word “This” open to interpretation.

Level 2 HP: S intends to induce the hearer to be sufficiently curious about this letter to reach the point of determining that nature of the powdery substance in the envelope, namely that it is Anthrax, hence the intended meaning for “This.”

UF: “Pragmatic Inconsistency,” an obscurity UF which is defined in this paper as follows: “S makes an assertion whose meaning is understood by the hearer as incompatible with some aspect of the context in which it is made, in the sense of violating the hearer’s understanding that assertion and of that context. Resolving the incompatibility leads the hearer to "update" his understanding of the assertion and/or of that context so that the apparent "violation" is thereby resolved in terms of some new hypothesis regarding the hearer’s understanding of that assertion or of the context. This new hypothesis is one which renders the hearer’s understanding of the assertion and/or of the context appropriate. An instance of this UF can be seen in S’s apparently gross misspelling of “penicillin” as “penacilin.”)

Level 1 HP: S believes that “penacillin” is the correct spelling of penicillin.

IMP: While S had sufficient understanding of Anthrax to be aware of its toxic nature and sufficient understanding of Anthrax to avoid self-contamination in handling it, his professional involvement with Anthrax appears not to be at the level where he would be reading about the use of penicillin in counteracting its toxicity.

IMP: S is a lower level worker in a facility where he has access to Anthrax is stored but who does not have knowledge about how to avoid contamination, which is incompatible with our understanding of the context as one within which this writer has sufficient knowledge about Anthrax and penicillin to have avoided self-contamination - at least to the extent of retaining the physical ability to write and mail this letter.

(Alternative 1) Level 1 HP: S knows the correct spelling of penicillin but had simply made an error in writing it,

IMP: The misspelling does not necessarily imply that S is a layman with no special knowledge about Anthrax, but it does suggest that S may not be particularly painstaking in writing this letter.

(Alternative 2) Level 1 HP: S made no error but had purposely misspelled the word “penicillin” as “penacilin” for some other purpose.

IMP: S misspelled this word in order to mask his identity as a professional Anthrax scientist or lab technician, or perhaps to mask his identity as an American scientist.

(Alternative 3) Level 1 HP: S knows the correct spelling of penicillin but has elected to misspell it as “penacilin.”

IMP: S misspelled this word to introduce an element of puzzlement for the hearer.

IMP: S is dissembling an identity of someone who is neither U.S. born or educated.

(Alternative 4) Level 1 HP: S did not know the correct spelling of “Penicillin” even though he was familiar with its potential use in Anthrax contamination.

IMP: S is a foreign national who does not know the English spelling of “penicillin.”

5. PROFILE SUMMARY

5.1. Psychological Profile

5.1.1. A Passive Individual. We would presume S to be a passive individual in his professional functioning and in his personal life, and with few friends or other like-minded individuals, suffering from a sense of isolation from others and holding feelings of disempowerment and resentment against established authority. He does not appear disposed to do more “acting-out” than to write letters with enclosed Anthrax spores such as this one. He appears inclined to avoid direct confrontation and to be disposed to take great pains to

avoid being discovered. He will probably be heard from again, however, but will remain anonymous, take no risks in being apprehended, adhering to his present type of activity of sending Anthrax spores in the mail to selected individuals.

5.1.2. An Abiding Sense of Impotence. To compensate for a perception that he was receiving decreasing respect from others, S seeks to aggrandize himself in a public albeit anonymous way by implying a connection with the motivations and purposes of the perpetrators of the very recent WTC attack. His Anthrax mailing was apparently intended to reinforce this implied connection with those perpetrators, and bolstered further by the use of middle-eastern Islamic rhetoric. By this means S appears trying to induce the hearer/authorities to believe that S is far more formidable than he in fact is, and far more potent than he fears himself to be.

5.1.3. A Loner. S appears to be an individual who has secured a lab technician's job which puts him in contact with Anthrax spores. He appears to be a "loner," unmarried, and living marginally. He may have resentment against individuals who have become rich and powerful in U.S. financial life and politics, whom he views as being unjustly in a higher and more esteemed position than his own. He probably suffers from a chronic sense of isolation and disempowerment, and may be an avid follower of newspaper accounts of the lives and accomplishments of powerful men. He harbors a sense of secret power, regarding himself as in possession of the power to end their lives and, generally, the power to terrify a nation. He savors being able to inflict fear and harm on anyone he chooses, and to do so with impunity. He thereby achieves the desired result of prevailing mightily over his symbolic enemies. We do not regard this writer to have any interest in the extremist Islamic movement or in its goals. His choice to "swim in the wake" of the WTC incident and insinuate (as we have pointed out in our analysis) some sort of connection with its perpetrators, appears to have been done for purely pragmatic reasons - i.e., to heighten the likelihood of a strong reaction to his letter.

5.1.4. A Criminal Amateur. S appears to be an amateur in criminal or terrorist activity. Were it not for the Anthrax spores in the letter, authorities would have had little or no interest in the letter, inasmuch as it would be undistinguished from crank letters of this kind. Thus S's credibility hinges solely on the presence of the Anthrax spores. As an isolated bona-fides, it is underutilized: a more sophisticated adversary would have leveraged the

presence of the spores to mount a much more serious threat. All indications are that the spores are all that S has. And that the only threat he poses is that he would use them again (which he ultimately does). But the threat goes nowhere. Clearly the radical Islamic rhetoric is an unimaginative gesture at a more general threat. Yet that is all that this writer can do. The spores themselves, while deadly and likely to create concern among authorities, are so circumscribed in their impact as to suggest a writer who has only that single string in his fiddle. Moreover, S also appears naïve in communication dynamics, writing, as it were, an unaccustomed threat letter perpetrating a threat with a familiar substance (Anthrax). S thus appears to be an amateur in terrorism, attempting to leverage the notoriety accruing to an Anthrax threat on the basis of an implied and less-than-believable connection with the preceding TWC incident. S appears unaccustomed to making written communications and displays a certain naivete suggestive of someone who is also an amateur in criminal activities, perhaps working as a lab technician with access to Anthrax.

5.1.5. Motivation. It would appear that S's access to Anthrax spores had emboldened him to send such a letter. We would suppose further that that access was a relatively simple one for him to exploit, rather than requiring a special strategy of some kind to obtaining them. Overall, this suggests again that S may be working as a lab technician in a facility where Anthrax spores are available. The very recent WTC and Pentagon assaults have given him an opportunity to express some long-standing hostility toward the U.S. government. It may be that S's chronic sense of disempowerment combined with a feeling that, as someone with technical knowledge regarding Anthrax, that he has the potential to exercise power over others. S's actions in writing and sending the letter to Tom Brokaw Anthrax letter were probably stimulated by the WTC incident, in the sense that he would not have done it had the WTC incident not occurred as a proper preface for it. The WTC incident and its aftermath in inducing widespread fear and social disruption probably offered an "attractive" opportunity for this disempowered writer to mount an Anthrax threat against an already beleaguered victim population. Everyone was "talking terrorism" and so the time was ripe for this individual to do what he did. This writer probably also had a "hankering" for publicity, albeit anonymous publicity, which could be fairly easily attained in the terrorism-conscious climate following the WTC incident. And he selected a high profile media symbol, Tom Brokaw as his first recipient, to take advantage of it. Thus, generally, S appears motivated primarily by resentment arising from his perception of having been underestimated or

otherwise mistreated in his professional activities, which probably involve access to Anthrax.

5.1.6. Intention. S has probably been familiar with the destructive capacity of Anthrax since well before 9/11/01. The WTC and the Pentagon incidents of 9/11/01 had given him the opportunity to “throw his hat in” during the few days following and to express his long-standing hostility toward financial and governmental authority, symbolized by the WTC and the Pentagon, respectively. S's apparent intention in writing and mailing the Anthrax letter to Tom Brokaw was to use it as a conduit into and through the media to get maximum publicity for his letter. More generally, his apparent goal appears to be to discomfort authorities and related persons in an exhibition of his power over them. We would presume that his intention is not to further the goals of radical Islamic terrorists as he implies, but the more limited one of discomforting and/or discrediting authorities charged with the monitoring of Anthrax related threats he generates. He perpetrates a threat but issues no demand.

5.1.7. A Dissembled Persona. We note also that S's misspelling of penicillin as "penacilin" appears inconsistent for someone familiar with literature on Anthrax to make, particularly with literature addressing medical measures to be taken in case of inadvertent contamination. For this misspelling, while not uncommon for lay persons who had not seen it in print often enough to remember its correct spelling, would seem somewhat extraordinary for someone who worked with Anthrax as S appears to have. Accordingly, we can infer that, since this is the only word that was misspelled in the letter, that this single misspelling was purposeful, and done to dissemble the kind of misspelling that perhaps a foreigner Anthrax technician might make. Moreover, the graphic character of the letter is crudely rendered and is itself inconsistent with a writer who had sufficient understanding of Anthrax to have avoided self-contamination. From this, we infer that the misspelling, as well as the crude rendering of the letter, were both contrived precisely to give the appearance of a writer of foreign origin and, more particularly, someone holding radical Islamic beliefs.

5.2. Professional Profile

5.2.1. Professional Situation. S appears to have technical knowledge relating to the properties and handling of Anthrax spores of the type used in the Brokaw Anthrax letter. The level at which the letter was written suggests either an individual working as a lower level technician in a facility that handles Anthrax or an individual working at a higher level in such a facility who is disassembling a professional level consistent with that of a lower level or foreign born technician. We would presume that S is a “home grown” American working in a technical capacity in an Anthrax facility disassembling both his technical level and national origin.

5.2.2. Level of Expertise. We believe that this writer has at least sufficient knowledge about the Anthrax spores he included in the letter not to contaminate himself while inserting them in the letter. On the other hand, S does not appear to have taken adequate precautions to avoid allowing the spores to filter out of the closed envelope to contaminate other presumably non-targeted individuals, a circumstance which suggests that S’s knowledge of Anthrax may be limited to those experienced in laboratory situations, which do not include their filtering out of containers like envelopes. If S had wanted to contaminate persons who came into contact with the letter incidentally, he could have done this more effectively by using envelopes with tiny perforations invisible to the naked eye, and in quantity, so as to significantly broaden the range and number of victims.

5.2.3. Technical Competency. On the whole, S appears to be an intelligent individual whose professional activities place him in contact with Anthrax spores of the kind found in this letter but who is otherwise naïve about how to leverage his access to them to cause greater consternation among authorities. The fact that S did not do this suggests that he intended only to contaminate Brokaw Anthrax letter and/or inner circle Brokaw Anthrax letter staff (and then "save" them all via a penicillin warning), and that S did not expect or intend the incidental contamination which occurred to those who handled the letter. Thus we infer further that S that S was unknowledgeable about incidental contamination and so possessing limited knowledge of Anthrax. Moreover, he also appears to have been unaware about how to design a more effective delivery system for this potent contaminating agent than the sending of an Anthrax laden letter.

5.3. Cognitive Profile

5.3.1. Use of Ambiguity. S is an intelligent individual who has crafted his letter in an ambiguous way to challenge authorities in deciphering it. The primary ambiguity centers about the word "this," whose intended referent can be: (a) the letter itself, (b) S's disposition to mail such letters, (c) the Anthrax spores which S enclosed in the letter, (d) the contamination of anyone who handles the letter, (e) further assaults on targeted recipients, or (f) a combination of these. S maintains this semantic ambiguity in the word "this" throughout the Brokaw Anthrax letter, seemingly to reinforce a sense of tension deriving from uncertainty as to just what this sentence means. By the use of this ambiguity, S implies that he and the danger he poses may be much more than that of the mailing of this single contaminated letter. Moreover, he allows this ambiguity to remain in force through the six enigmatic lines of the message and thereby to communicate to the hearer that the hearer will not know what "this" refers to until such time as the enclosed powder is analyzed, at which time it may be "too late." S thus builds-in a deferred understanding on the part of the hearer and authorities as to what "this" refers to and for a proper evaluation of the potential lethality of the message. Overall, S appears to be an intelligent individual who has carefully thought out the path that the letter recipient and authorities would trace out in an attempt to understand the nature of the threat it poses.

5.3.2. Use of Incongruity. S also appears to have purposely posed a puzzling incongruity: on the one hand, he implies control of and expertise in the handling and use of Anthrax against targeted entities; on the other hand, he frames his letter in a crude graphic form with naïve, rambling and only marginally coherent phrasing, highlighted by trite rhetorical exclamations and an egregious misspelling of the key term "penicillin." S thereby fashions a persona of an adversary who is fully capable of carrying out Anthrax contaminations against whomever and whenever he chooses, yet is crude and naïve in expressing himself in English, the resolution of the incongruity being that he is trained in the use of Anthrax for nefarious purposes but of Middle Eastern rather than U.S. origins. This incongruity between technical competence and awkward verbal expression suggests that S has "manufactured" the identity of someone who, like S, has access to Anthrax

and is knowledgeable in its use but who, unlike S, is of Middle Eastern and a radical Islamist, to boot. We presume that S's true identity is that of a skilled lab technician who has access to Anthrax spores, who was born and raised in the U.S., who has language skills far above those exhibited in the letter, who works in a facility which handles Anthrax spores as part of its scientific charter, and who has composed this letter in a manner that would suggest also that he is a foreigner with radical Islamic beliefs who has somehow gotten hold of the Anthrax spores. We presume further that S intended that the hearer resolve the incongruity by believing that S is a foreigner with limited knowledge of English and with poor graphic skills, but who has the technical competence to mount a world-wide contamination threat against any individual or country he chooses, and with a devastation potential comparable to that of the WTC incident. S's problem is to demonstrate that he has such a capability while masking his own identity attempts to obscure his own educational and professional level by dissembling a persona of a middle eastern terrorist with limited knowledge of English, who is awkward in writing of a letter such as this, and who appears crude in the manner of an unskilled and unschooled terrorist who has deadly Anthrax spores at his disposal and the inclination to contaminate others. We are inclined to believe that this writer is an American who is schooled at a fairly high level within the U.S., and who has employment at an Anthrax facility consistent with his education.

Footnote 1. While we indicate only a single HP for this particular UF, "Omission of Salutation," various sorts of other HPs are clearly possible, as are chains formed from them. In Section 4, we had indicated various such chains within a branching chain we had designated as an Alternating HP Branch of Type A (based on that UF). Similar considerations apply to any of the UFs noted here.