hand-lettering
TIPS-&-TRICKS
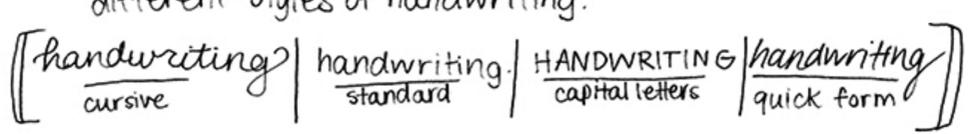
1. Decide on a word or phrase. Starting with less words is much easier, but you should choose something you won't get tired of.
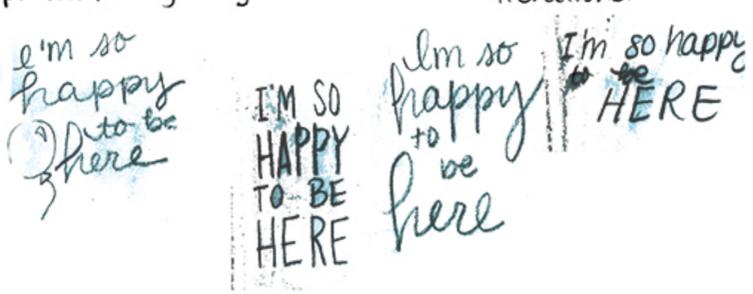
   I'm so happy to be here

2. Write your chosen word or phrase in as many styles and arrangements as you can. Using graph paper is a good way to keep everything lined up.

   * GET CREATIVE! try using unusual or abstract lettering.

   * Try starting out with your typical handwriting, and make adjustments. You probably already have a few different styles of handwriting.
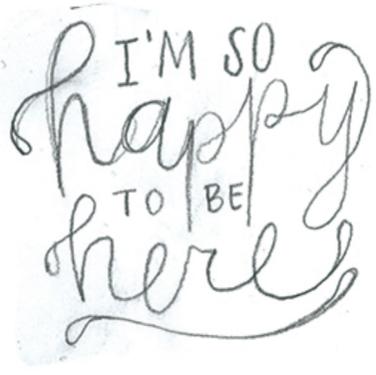
handwriting	handwriting	HANDWRITING &	handwriting
cursive	standard	capital letters	quick form

   * Setting a numbered goal is a good way to avoid giving up prematurely. Try 25 or even 50 iterations.

3. Choose your favorite version from step 2 and get a fresh sheet of paper. Write it a few more times, adding embellishments or connecting letters so it looks more developed.

   * Playing with SIZE and **weight** can create more emphasis on certain words.

4. Take your newly-refurbished layout of text, and on a clean sheet of paper (not graph paper), use a pencil to sketch out a simplified, single-line version. Using a single-line weight allows you to make adjustments to size and placing without taking too much energy.

5. When your pencilled-in linework looks good, you can then start to "bulk up" your letters to add line-weight variation. I usually thicken vertical lines to give the appearance of brush lettering.

   * By now, you're basically finished if you so choose to be! The remaining steps are just extra finishing touches.

6. You can now take your "bulked up" design and fill it in with a darker media, such as india ink, pen, watercolor or marker to give a more finished look.

7. Scan your inked words and in a program like photoshop, use the "magic wand" tool to select all your linework. Don't forget embellishments and things like the dots on "i"s.

8. Adjust the hue or color balance of your selection to experiment with colors, or "fill" with a color of your choice. You can also delete the background and save your image as a PNG so it can be on top of any image!

I hope you were able to create something awesome from this simple tutorial. Remember that the great thing about hand-lettering is that it's unique to you only!

There are so many ways to hand-letter, this is just a simple way that I've learned. Try more if you like it and happy handwriting! ♡