

Group Work: Manuscript Exercise

Imagine that you are preparing a scholarly edition of the manuscript your group has been given.

1. Describe your manuscript
2. Transcribe your manuscript faithfully (ie. produce a diplomatic transcription)
3. Why is it important to look at the original manuscript of a text?
4. How important is it to transcribe the original faithfully? On what occasions would you deviate from the original in your transcription?
5. What might you do if the original contained mistakes (eg. spelling mistakes or errors of fact)?
6. Would you modernise spellings, punctuation, or any other period conventions (eg. abbreviations, superscript) in your edited text?
7. What would you do with revisions (eg. different versions of the same text) made by a) the author, and b) a person who is not the author?
8. Where there are different versions of the same text, which has authority in questions of substantive variants (ie. where there are substantial differences between the different versions):
 - a) the earliest known version?
 - b) the final version?
 - c) a fair copy version (ie. one that has been written out again in a neat hand)?
 - d) Other?
9. What would you do if the text you edited had annotations on it, either by the author or by someone else?