

Exercise: Making a quarto  
due in class on Friday, March 7th

This exercise will help you understand the format of early modern books by walking you through the steps of designing your own one-sheet quarto pamphlet.

For this assignment, you will need to follow these steps:

1. *Write your text.* It can be anything that follows a sequence: a story, a poem, a rant about social media. It simply needs to **start** at the beginning on the first page (or 2nd, if you're using a title page) and to **stop** at the ending on the last (8th) page. (In other words, don't use an excerpt of a longer work that cuts off in the middle; this should be a complete work that is 7 or 8 pages long.)
2. *Cast off and impose your text.* In other words, lay it out in the appropriate places on the sheet of paper so that, when correctly folded, the pages appear in the correct order.
3. *Publish your text.* Bring to class at least one copy of a double-sided sheet of paper that can be folded into your final quarto.

Key elements that your quarto needs to include:

- Main text
- Appropriate signature marks (*i.e.*, don't oversign or undersign)
- Catchwords
- Headlines
- Imprint information either on the title page or in a colophon

Other useful information:

- Your quarto can be either print or manuscript. In either case, the imposition and the page elements will be the same.
- If you use a cut-and-paste method to lay out your text (as I did with the pdfs we folded in class), please run them through a copier to make a clean double-sided sheet.
- Don't forget to leave margins so your text doesn't get swallowed up in the gutter!