Weigh both the internal and external evidence, without falling into a mechanical routine. Starting with the internal, consider *readings that most likely gave rise to other variants.*

Internal Evidence

Which variants have the highest **transcriptional** probability (most likely by a scribe) and **intrinsic** probability (most likely by the author)? Give preference to variants that are …

More difficult — give added weight to harder readings, exhibiting a grammar, style, or theology that would have been more difficult for a scribe to understand

More terse — with what seems to be an intentional change, give added weight to shorter readings (a scribe is more likely to clarify with more words)

More verbose — with a scribe's unintentional change, give added weight to longer readings (a scribe is more likely to accidently omit words)

More discordant — with variants showing influence from parallel passages, give added weight to readings that do not harmonize with the parallel

More consistent — with variants long enough to note patterns, give added weight to readings reflective of the book's context and the author's style

External Evidence

Which variants are **early and reliable,** showing geographical spread and genealogical solidarity with the regional archetype?

Papyri and uncials — earlier than minuscules, versions, and Fathers

Alexandrian — especially ℵ (Codex Sinaiticus) or B (Codex Vaticanus)

Non-Byzantine — but do not exclude other weighted evidence

Two or more text-types — especially if Alexandrian and Western

Quoted by Anti-Nicene Fathers — Church Fathers writing before 325 CE

Faithful to text-type, yet different from others — especially if other external evidence is evenly divided

See Darrell L. Bock and Buist M. Fanning, *Interpreting the New Testament Text* (2006), pp. 45-56.

Text-types and their sources: **Papyri** (e.g., 𝔓⁷⁵) ● **Uncials** (e.g., ℵ B D 054) ● **Minuscules** (e.g., 20 33) ● **Versions** (e.g., Boh It) ● **Fathers** (e.g., Ath Clem)

	Alexandrian	Western	Byzantine
Gospels	𝔓¹ 𝔓³ 𝔓⁴ 𝔓⁵ 𝔓⁷ 𝔓²² 𝔓³⁹ (𝔓⁶⁶) 𝔓⁷⁵ ● ℵ B C L Q T (W Lk 1.1–8.12 Jn) (X) Z (Δ Mk) Ξ (Ψ exc. Mt) 054 059 060 0162 ● 20 33 164 215 376 (579 exc. Mt) 718 850 892 1241 (1342 Mk) ● Boh (Sah) ● Ath Clem-Alex? Cyr-Alex (Or)	𝔓²⁵ ● D (W Mk 1–5?) 0171 ● – ● It ᵉˢᵖ· ᵏ ᵉ Sin-Syr Cur-Syr ● Tert Ir Clem-Alex Cyp (Aug) Diates.? —— **Caesarean** text-type? 𝔓⁴⁵ ● W Mk 5.31ff	– ● A E F G H K M P S U V (W Mt, Lk 8.12ff) Y (Δ exc. Mk) Γ Π Ω ● Most minuscules ● – ● Goth, later ver., later fathers
Acts	𝔓⁸ 𝔓⁴⁵? (𝔓⁵⁰) ● ℵ A B (C) Ψ 048 076 096 ● 6 33 81 104 326 1175 ● Boh (Sah) ● Ath Cyr-Alex Clem-Alex? (Or)	𝔓²⁹? 𝔓³⁸ 𝔓⁴¹ 𝔓⁴⁸ ● D E 066 ● 257 383? 440 614 913 1108 1245 1518 1611 1739 2138 2298 ● It Hark-Syrᵐᵍ ● –	– ● H L S P 049? Most minuscules ● – ● Goth, later ver., later fathers
Paul and Hebrews	𝔓¹⁰ 𝔓¹³ 𝔓¹⁵ 𝔓¹⁶ 𝔓²⁷ 𝔓³² 𝔓⁴⁰ 𝔓⁴⁶? 𝔓⁶⁵ ● ℵ A B (C) H I M P Ψ 048 081 088 0220 ● 6 33 81 104 326 424ᶜ 1175 1739 1908 ● Boh (Sah) ● –	– ● D E F G 048 (Titus Tim Phm) ● 88 181 383? 915 917 1836 1898 1912 ● It ● –	– ● K L 049? Most other minuscules ● – ● Goth, later ver., later fathers
General Epistles	𝔓²⁰ 𝔓²³ 𝔓⁷² 𝔓⁷⁴? ● ℵ A B (C) P Ψ 048 056 0142 0156 ● 33 81 104 323 326 424ᶜ 1175 1739 2298 ● Boh (Sah) ● Ath Cyr-Alex Clem-Alex? (Or)	𝔓³⁸ ● D E ● 383? ● It? Hark-Syrᵐᵍ? ● Ir Tert Cyp Aug Eph	– ● H K L S ● 42 398 most other minuscules ● – ● Goth, later ver., later fathers
Revelation	𝔓¹⁸ 𝔓²⁴ 𝔓⁴⁷ ● (ℵ) A (C) P 0207 0169 ● 61 69 94 241 254? 1006 1175 1611 1841 1852 2040 2053 2344 2351 ● – ● –	– ● F? ● – ● It? ● –	– ● 046 051? 052? ● 82 93 429 469 808 920 2048 most other minuscules ● – ● Goth, later ver., later fathers

Based on J. Harold Greenlee's *Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism* (Rev 1995), 117-118; cf. modifications in Paul D. Wegner's *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible* (2006), 245-246.

Red added by ncBc to emphasize important texts, e.g.: Chester Beatty (𝔓⁴⁵ 𝔓⁴⁶) and Bodmer papyri (𝔓⁶⁶ 𝔓⁷⁵); Codices Sinaiticus (ℵ), Vaticanus (B), and Bezae (D); some of the minuscules (33, 81, 1739, 2053).