The Long S

The long s can be confused with the lowercase f, sometimes even having an f-like bar on the left side of its middle. In general, the long s fell out of use in professional printing by the 19th century, especially due to the development of new fonts in the mid-1790s.

“He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.”

The long s (f) is one form of the lowercase s that was used in the past when an s appeared at the beginning of a word or the middle. The double s in the middle of a word usually consists of a long s and a short s, as in “Firmness.”

$$ss = \text{f}s = \text{F}s$$

Tips and Tricks for Reading
- Write down any letters you can read, then sound out to see if it’s a word you know.
- Can’t figure out a letter? Look throughout the document to find similar letters or words that you can read.
- Ask for help! Maybe you can’t figure out what a word says, but maybe someone else can.
- Having trouble with a word, leave a space or put a bracket [ ] and go back to it later.
- Put down letters you think you see and you might be able to figure out what word it is.

Tips and Tricks for Writing
- Pick a pencil that you are comfortable writing with and grasp it firmly.
- Place your free hand on the paper to secure it in place.
- It’s okay to make a mistake, keep trying! Make sure to use a pencil to make erasing easier.
- Take it slow and focus on each letter you are making.