

What is Kairos?

Kairos refers to that critical moment in time and space that concerns the writer, the reader, and the context in which the writing occurs. It can also be thought of as the opportune moment or the right time.

Writer's Objectives

To achieve kairos in writing, writers need to focus on the following:

- Understanding exigence and finding purpose
- Investigating a topic and developing a deep understanding of the topic and rhetorical situation
- Finding appropriate and effective genre
- Sharing with readers your deep understanding of the topic and situation

Generating Kairos

Understanding exigence and finding purpose	Investigating a topic	Developing an understanding of the topic and rhetorical situation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Determine the need, the demand, the motivation that is prompting you to write ■ Determine purpose for writing (expressive, referential/informative, persuasive, literary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Determine exact subject by using one of the following techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Freewriting ■ Focused freewriting ■ Brainstorming ■ Discussion/dialogue ■ Searching the internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Developing a deep understanding of the topic and rhetorical situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ask questions ■ Conduct preliminary research ■ Conduct extensive research ■ Find an appropriate and effective genre

Kairos Guide

Drafting Kairos

To achieve kairos in writing, writers need to focus on the following:

- Demonstrate knowledge about subject
- Create a kairotic moment
 - Emphasize uniqueness and originality of topic
 - Present startling statistics
 - Connect to current crisis
 - Compare your topic to a historical event
 - Contextualize your topic
 - Pose a set of questions
 - Include a provocative quote
 - Use research

Revising Kairos

Consider the following:

- Did you determine the purpose or aim of your writing?
- Does your draft make the exigence and purpose clear?
- Did you choose a genre based on your purpose, topic, mode, and audience?

References

Farkas, Kerrie R. H. *The Transportable Writing Tool: A Guide for Writing and Revising*. 2nd ed. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2020.