

Millersville University  
THE WRITING CENTER

# Kairos



# Kairos

# OVERVIEW

**Definition**

**Writer's Objectives**

**Generating Kairos**

- Understanding exigence and finding purpose
- Investigating a topic
- Developing a deep understanding of the topic and rhetorical situation

**Drafting Kairos**

**Revising Kairos**

# Kairos

# Definition

## 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.

# Kairos

# Objectives

## 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

# Kairos

# Generating

## Generatng Kairos

Understanding exigence and finding purpose

- Determine the need, the demand, the motivation that is prompting you to write
- Determine purpose for writing (expressive, referential/informative, persuasive, literary)

# Kairos

# Generating

## Generatng Kairos

Investigating a topic

- Determine exact subject by using one of the following techniques:
  - Freewriting
  - Focused Freewriting
  - Brainstorming
  - Discussion/Dialogue
  - Searching the Web

# Kairos

# Generating

## Generatng Kairos

Developing a deep understanding of the topic and rhetorical situation

- Fully understand your topic by using one of the following techniques:
  - Ask Questions
  - Conduct Preliminary Research
  - Conduct Extensive Research
- Finding appropriate and effective genre

# Kairos

# Drafting

## Drafting Kairos

Sharing with readers your deep understanding of the topic and situation

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



# Kairos

# Revising

## Revising Kairos

- Did you determine the need or demand prompting you to write? What is it?
- Did you determine the aim or purpose of your writing and what you want to accomplish by writing? What is the aim of your text?
- Did you determine under which of the four aims your purpose falls (expressive, referential, persuasive, literary)? Which?
- Is the aim / purpose of your writing clear to readers? How and where do you make it clear?
- Is the exigence of your writing clear to readers? How and where do you make it clear?
- Did you use an appropriate and effective genre based on your audience and purpose? Which genre did you use and why is it appropriate for your audience and purpose?
- Is the aim / purpose of your writing clear to readers? How and where do you make it clear?
- Did you create a kairotic moment(s) in your text? Which strategy(ies) did you use?

# Kairos

# References

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

# For More Information

## Make An Appointment With the Writing Center

Make an appointment through Starfish  or send an email to the Writing Center and a tutor will be in touch

 [writing.center@millersville.edu](mailto:writing.center@millersville.edu)

 <https://www.millersville.edu/enwl/writing-center/>

 McNairy Library, Room 106

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