

Reading Guide for “Rhetorical Situations and Their Constituents”

You’re going to hear Keith-Davie refer to Bitzer multiple times as you read. Note that Keith Grant-Davie’s goal (with this article) is to respond to/add to a seminal text by Lloyd Bitzer, a scholar who defined the rhetorical situation extensively back in the 60s. You *don’t need to have read Bitzer* to understand Grant-Davie’s article, I promise, but you do need to read closely. This reading guide is meant to help you notice the important features of the text.

Directions: As you read this article, answer the following in your own words:

1. What in your own words is a ***rhetorical situation***?
2. One of the four constituents of the rhetorical situation outlined by Grant-Davie is ***exigence***.
 - a. What is ***exigence***?
 - b. Why is it important?
 - c. What 3 questions does Grant-Davie pose to determine ***exigence***?
3. The 2nd constituent of the rhetorical situation is the ***rhetor***. What’s important to know about the rhetor’s role in the rhetorical situation?
4. The 3rd constituent is ***audience***. What do we need to know about ***audience***, according to Grant-Davie?
5. The final constituent of the rhetorical situation is ***constraints***. What are ***constraints***? Give me an example from a real-world rhetorical situation.