American Educational Studies Association (AESA) Proposal Tips & Information

- Visit the conference website and read the call for proposals and the submission protocol (www.educationalstudies.org).
- Check the website for the length requirements and other directions.
- You have an option to submit an individual, symposium, panel, or alternative proposal.

o Individual - a paper you want to present. if accepted you will be grouped by the conference organizers into a panel with other people presenting their papers on a similar theme or topic.

o Symposium - is a group presentation around a particular topic or area of inquiry. Although presenters may bring papers to discuss, the emphasis of this kind of session is group discussion. Chairs and discussants should be identified by the session organizer.

o Panel - a panel is a collection of papers around a specific area of inquiry or theme, and each participant presents her/his/their own paper. Chairs and discussants should be identified by the session organizer.

o Alternative – do not fit neatly into any of the above boxes. Alternative sessions can be framed as working groups, town halls, performances, structured poster sessions, video and multimedia presentations, or other formats.

Individual paper proposals:

- Create a strong title
- Use the subheadings as outlined by the proposal submission directions addressing all components within the word limit
- If applicable, describe how your work relates to the conference theme
- Be sure to include references to indicate the theoretical perspectives or literature base from which your work is framed. References do not count toward the word limit.

Symposium proposal:

- Create a strong title
- Provide a short review of relevant literature
- Briefly discuss how the group presenters interrelate and what the symposium explores
- Provide a brief conclusion, tying it together
- Be sure to include references to indicate the theoretical perspectives or literature base from which your work is framed. References do not count toward the word limit.
- One person will submit the proposal through the website and be the point of contact with the conference organizers

Panel Proposal

- Create a strong title
- Provide a short review of relevant literature
- Briefly discuss how the group of papers interrelate
- Provide a brief overview of each paper
- Provide a brief conclusion, tying it together
- Be sure to include references to indicate the theoretical perspectives or literature base from which your work is framed. References do not count toward the word limit.
- One person will submit the proposal through the website and be the point of contact with the conference organizers

Some helpful advice for folks new to submitting to AESA:

How to decide what to present:

- It is fine to present a paper you wrote for another purpose (ie. course paper), but do not describe it as such. It should not be the same exact presentation already presented/submitted for another conference.
- Find others who want to present on a common theme. Consider colleagues in other departments or at other institutions for symposium or panel submissions.
- With the conference theme in mind, consider changes you might want to make to your work—areas you might need to write in/build in or revise to take existing work and transform it in ways that are in alignment with the conference.
- Take a look at AESA's website, specifically the "who we are" and "what we do sections" under "about AESA"—consider how your paper/panel/symposium/alternative session relates to the organization and its work. Reflect on how you can make that explicit in your proposal.

Make sure to:

- Include references that are cited correctly
- Follow the directions from the website
- Keep presenter names out of the body of the proposal since the submission is to be blind reviewed. You can use substitutes like Author 1, Author 2, etc.

Overall, what makes a proposal stand out:

- The work fills a gap in the literature or field
- Demonstrated clear understanding of related literature
- Connection to the conference theme
- Strong methods/methodology is explained for research papers
- Proposal is well written (use active voice, edit for spelling and grammar, follow APA)