

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 on a panel with other people presenting their papers
 - o Symposium - a symposium 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 Panel - 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 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.

Writing an individual paper:

- 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 in order to indicate that you have a basic knowledge of the related literature (references do not count toward the word limit).

Writing a symposium proposal:

- Create a strong title
- Introduce your panel
 - o mini lit review
 - o how the pieces interrelate
 - o what the panel explores
 - o include references
- Provide a brief overview of each paper
- Provide a brief conclusion, tying it together
- One person should be the point person who will collect the individual paper write-ups and the introduction or conclusion. OR if you want to write more collaboratively, Google docs is a good tool for being able to have multiple people in the same document.
- 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.
- Present on a topic that you have researched or plan to research before the conference date.
- 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 tweak 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/project/symposium/workshop 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

- Your work fills a gap
- You demonstrate a clear understanding of related literature, naming key people or ideas in the field
- You connect to the conference theme in some way
- You have strong methods, especially if it's a research paper
- It is well written (use active voice, edit for spelling and grammar, follow APA)