

Guidelines for Education Abstracts/Synopses

Educational research generally has the following categories, which you should include in your abstract and synopsis:

- Background/Purpose of the Research/Research Questions
 - Introduce your topic. What is your research about? What are you trying to do in this presentation? Give us some background knowledge and explain what you are going to tell us.
 - What are your driving or essential questions? What did you want to know? Frame your inquiry as questions to be answered.
- Theory
 - Why theory/theories supported your work? Why was this theory important? How did it help you understand or frame your inquiry?
- Methodology/Methods
 - What was your process in learning about your topic, and why did you opt for this process? What did you decide against? Explain what you did to learn about your topic and why you made those choices.
 - What methods did you use to research this topic? Why were these methods well-suited for your inquiry?
- Findings
 - What were the results of your inquiry? What did you learn, or what new knowledge has been produced? What should others know about this topic based on your research?
- Discussion/New Directions/Further Considerations
 - Why is it important for others to know about this topic? What do we know now that we did not know before, and how does that make a difference?
 - Why is this knowledge significant? How do the findings add to the field of education or your practice as a teacher?
 - How do these findings add to our understanding of theory and practice in education?

In an abstract, you will only have space to devote 1-2 sentence(s) to each of the categories described above. In a synopsis, you will expand your ideas to answer the questions more fully. Maximum length 350 words.