

**Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA)
39th Annual Conference, October 22-24, 2008**

PAPER AND SESSION PROPOSAL F.A.Q.



Conference Theme:
Strengthening Educational Research

We invite your proposal for papers and posters reflecting a variety of topics in and approaches to the study of education. Papers and posters need not be about the conference theme.

What kind of session works best for me?

There are four types of sessions at NERA:

Individual Paper Presentations provide author(s) the opportunity to present a condensed version of a completed study. The research presented may focus on a problem from an empirical or theoretical perspective. Qualitative and quantitative designs are both welcomed. Presentations typically last 10-12 minutes for each paper and typically 4 papers are grouped into a single session. A discussion will follow the presentation of all of the papers within a session. The Program Co-Chairs group individual papers into sessions; program co-chairs also assign a paper session chair to facilitate the session and a discussant to offer brief comments and lead discussion after paper presentations. (Feel free to contact us separately if you are interested in serving as chair or discussant at a paper session.)

Poster Sessions enable authors to present research in a visual format and allow for informal, individualized discussion and feedback about the research with colleagues. This is the preferred format to use for in-progress research.

Theme-Based Paper Sessions/Symposium Sessions features multiple paper presentations within a common theme. Theme-Based Paper Sessions/Symposia are similar to the paper sessions, but are organized by a single participant for a group of presenters. Sessions run for the same amount of time as multi-presenter individual paper sessions. Chair and Discussant are provided by the group proposing the session.

Working Group Sessions allow the same group of individuals to meet once or twice over the course of the Conference for the purpose of discussing in-depth a common emerging research theme. Similar to the Symposium sessions, Working Group sessions are organized by a single individual or small group and require a proposal to be accepted for inclusion on the conference program. The goal of this session format is to establish or support collaborative ongoing research and/or publication efforts of participants. Often, Working Groups will continue to dialogue after the conference.

What information will be required when I submit my proposal?

Each submission will be comprised of three electronic files attached to a single e-mail titled “completed proposal” and sent to neramembers@gmail.com

[NERA 2008 Proposal Cover Sheet](#): Complete this form in full.

Abstract: Indicate the full title of presentation or session, full name and affiliation of each author and/or presenter. Each abstract should include the statement of problem, the research questions addressed, the methods used, a brief summary of the results, and educational implications. Abstracts for theme-based sessions or working group discussions should include the unifying theme of the session, and the names and affiliations of each of the participants. The abstract length is limited to 100 words. Abstracts of accepted proposals are printed unedited in the NERA Program.

Proposal Summary: The proposal summary file should not include the name or affiliation of any presenter(s), author(s), or organizer(s), as the summary will be circulated for blind review. In general, the summary should include the purpose of the study, the theoretical framework that supports the rationale for the study, methodology, results, conclusions, educational implications, and any special features of the session (e.g., technology used, expected audience participation, teacher-researchers involved, etc.). The proposal summary should not exceed 1000 words. NOTE: Proposals that cite other papers, publications, manuscripts, etc. but do not include a reference list will not be accepted. In addition:

- Summaries for proposed *Theme-Based Sessions/Symposia* should include a description of the unifying topic;
- Summaries of proposed *Posters* should include a description of the planned display;
- Summaries of proposed *Working Group Sessions* should include expected contribution of each participant, expected outcomes of the working group (e.g., further research, publication, etc.), and a bibliography of readings in preparation for discussion.

How will proposals be submitted?

All proposals must be submitted electronically via e-mail to the program co-chairs at: neramembers@gmail.com

When are proposals due and when will I hear about acceptance?

Proposals may be sent beginning immediately through **June 15, 2008**. The program co-Chairs expect to notify submitters of acceptance by August 1, 2008.

Questions about submitting proposals?

Contact the 2008 NERA Conference team, Helen Marx, Tom Levine, and Meg Monaghan, via e-mail at neramembers@gmail.com

What are “subject descriptors”?

The program co-chairs aim to have a diverse program overall, and to minimize conflicts of interest in scheduling simultaneous sessions. To aid in our decisions and our considering groups of papers, please select three descriptors from the common list of descriptors below to describe your proposal. Put descriptors on the Proposal Cover Sheet.

- Action research
- Curriculum studies
- Early childhood education
- Education in the professions
- Educational measurement & psychometrics
- Educational policy
- Higher education
- History & philosophy
- Human development & counseling
- International education
- Learning & instruction
- Legal issues in education
- Literature & language arts education
- Mathematics & science education
- Multicultural education
- Other: _____
- Professional development
- Qualitative research methods
- Quantitative research methods & statistical theory
- School evaluation & program development
- School accountability, improvement, & reform
- School organization & leadership
- Second language acquisition
- Social context of education
- Social studies education
- Special education & rehabilitation
- Speech & language
- Student populations research