



**Call for Proposals 57th Annual Conference October 14-16, 2026
Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, Connecticut**

As a regional affiliate of the American Educational Research Association, NERA invites proposals for our annual meeting spanning all areas of educational research. We welcome proposals from new and experienced researchers and will consider both completed and in-progress research.

Below you will find the conference theme, general requirements for NERA proposals, and specific guidelines corresponding to the four session formats. For more information about the conference, including FAQs about NERA proposals, visit NERA at www.nera-education.org.

Keepin' it Real in the Age of AI

AI refers to both Artificial Intelligence as well as Anti-Intellectualism. The hostility and mistrust of intellectuals and intellectual pursuits attaches the merits of science, education, and literature. With this in mind, we will use the 2026 conference as an opportunity to highlight the earned terminal degrees and credentials held by our members and presenters as a stance against Anti-Intellectualism.

During this conference we look to explore questions such as:

- How does the Anti-Intellectualism movement seek to impede the advancement of educational research?
- Who is harmed by an over reliance on AI and technology? In what ways do the expansion of AI centers create cognitive dissonance for our responsibility as ethical researchers?
- How can AI be used responsibly to support educational research, teaching, and learning?
- How can we rethink our methods to allow for meaningful critical thinking and discourse?
- How can we shift the focus from prioritizing results and embrace the process of learning and discovery as we support true intellectualism ?
- How can we balance critical questioning and encourage intellectual curiosity while honoring established expertise?

We encourage proposals that consider the continued growth and development that is required to move the field of educational research forward. We seek to broaden our understanding of appropriate uses of Artificial Intelligence while battling the Anti-Intellectualism that pervades the current political climate. The president and conference team challenges all researchers to critique a system that may prioritize perceived efficiency over human decency.

Although we encourage proposals related to the conference theme, this is not a requirement for submission. In-progress research proposals are welcomed, including research resulting from internships.

The 2026 content strands for submission are:

1. Combating Anti-Intellectualism
2. Educational Research Methods
3. Educational Systems and Policies
4. Higher Education Research and Practice
5. Measurement and Psychometrics
6. PK-12 Education Research and Practice
7. Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
8. Miscellaneous

Submission Requirements

- Complete information for author(s) including affiliation(s). This information is required in the submission system, but should NOT appear in the proposal document itself as all proposals undergo blind peer review.
- Descriptive title (maximum: 15 words)
- Selection of up to three content strands
- Description of paper to appear in conference program (maximum: 50 words)
 - Proposal, NOT including tables, figures, and references (maximum: 1,000 words)
 - Your proposal should include study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, research questions, results, conclusions, and educational implications. Please note consideration will be given for in-progress research not containing all of these elements.
 - You will be asked to indicate if your proposal reflects in-progress research.

Warning: Proposals with more than 1,000 words will not be accepted.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals must be submitted electronically by **Friday, May 29, 2026 at 11:59 pm EDT**.
- 2 to 3 NERA volunteers will conduct blind reviews of each proposal.
- Each proposal will be judged according to the following criteria: educational or scholarly

significance, perspective or theoretical framework, appropriateness of methodology, clarity of expression, and appeal to NERA membership.

- Proposal decisions will be emailed to first authors in mid August.

Details about session dates and times will follow after the program has been finalized.

Session-Specific Guidelines

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate which of the following session formats you prefer for your research. We encourage everyone to select more than one possible option, as selecting multiple options increases your likelihood of acceptance. Regardless of the session you choose, your paper will go through rigorous peer review by NERA volunteers. As each format provides a medium for contributing your research to the field, all session formats are equally important. We hope to maintain a variety of sessions this year to maximize the educational experience for NERA conference attendees.

1. Individual Presentations

- a. Individual Paper:** Proposals should describe completed or nearly completed research to be presented in approximately 10-15 minutes. Sessions will be organized so that 3-5 individual presentations will be grouped according to similar research areas with prescribed time limits for presentations. In most paper sessions, a discussant will be assigned to read the set of papers in advance and lead a discussion of the set of papers.
- b. Roundtable:** Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction among presenters and attendees, emphasizing discussion of completed or in-progress research. Each table will have 3-5 researchers with accepted papers organized around shared interests. In addition, each session will have a designated chair knowledgeable in the research area to facilitate interaction and participation.
- c. Individual Poster:** Poster proposals should describe a research project, either completed or nearly completed, that lends itself to a visual display and would benefit from informal individualized discussion and feedback. Posters brought to the conference should be no larger than 36 x 48 inches.

2. Theme-Based Paper Session/Symposium

- a.** Proposals for this format should describe a set of 3-5 presentations organized around a common theme. The proposal should include a description of how the presentations are related to each other, as well as a short description of each of the presentations that are included in the session. The chair and discussant for this session format must be identified in the proposal system (not in the proposal document itself). The format and procedure for these sessions are identical to the Individual Paper Presentation sessions.

The chairs are particularly interested in organizing coordinated sessions around the

following topics. Submissions for these areas are highly encouraged, and a slot in the program will be reserved:

Quantitative critical theory

Ethical use of AI in teaching and instruction

Education researcher responses to Anti-Intellectualism

Qualitative methods for promoting critical discourse

Proposal Submission System The proposal submission system is available on the NERA website and through this link: [NERA 2026 Proposal System](#)

Call for conference volunteers and reviewers!

NERA is a volunteer-based organization. We need your help to ensure a high-quality conference in October.

Volunteer to be a **proposal reviewer** through this [link!](#)

Volunteer to be a **session chair or discussant** through this [link!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the conference co-chairs at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Tabitha Bellamy, PhD
NERA President

Taneshia Beverly, PhD
Matthew James Madison, PhD
Jordana Simmons Berwise, PhD
NERA 2026 Conference Co-Chairs