



NARST

A global organization for improving
science education through research

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2027 NARST Annual International Conference

March 14 – 17, 2027, In-person
March 31, 2027, All-Virtual Day
Boston, MA, United States

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Presidential Theme

Braiding Pasts, Presents, and Futures: Crossing Borders in Performing Science Education Research

NARST is turning 100 years old! As our association is reaching its centennial milestone, we are all called to reflect, to act, and to imagine the future of science education and science education research. This invites us to rekindle commitments to diversity of people, scholarship, communities, approaches, and journeys that constitute our collective pursuit of strengthening science literacy. It is a time to celebrate our varied histories, trajectories, identities, languages, geographies, and ways of being and engaging in the world, learn from the past, and envision spaces and places where science education transforms lives.

The Akan people's sankofa, the Greeks' anamnisi, the Māori people's ka mua, ka muri, the Jewish people's l'dor v'dor, the Arab culture's irji' lita'khudh al-hikma, Latin America's rescate de la memoria movements, and ample other cultural wisdom inspire us to reach back to construct what we may have forgotten, silenced, lost, missed, and achieved. These ways of remembering illuminate our present praxis and craft the promise of imagined new futures. Considering science education as practices that can empower life and liberty for all peoples compels us to embrace expansive views of how knowledge is produced, valued, and used. It challenges us to disrupt hierarchies that constrain access and transformation and to uphold the axiom that high-quality science education is a human right. The Greek song "O Thromos / The Street" – The street had its own history; Someone wrote it with paint on the wall; It was only one word, 'freedom'; And then they said children wrote it – invigorates for me this calling. It inspires interrogating our pasts, learning from children, youth, adults, and elders with whom we live, work, teach, and study, and pondering how science education scholarship contributes to vibrant communities, to freedom in all its forms, and to hope for humanity.

At the NARST centennial conference, let us ponder about knowledges and identities, share wide-ranging scholarship, elevate varied voices, grapple with challenges and opportunities, and leverage the arts as a way of knowing and being. Let us engage with realities while problem posing and problem solving, support one another through mentorship, learn from each other, and consider critical love in our research and in our interactions to re-collect and re-cognize. Science education and the research pursued by NARST members have shaped, and been shaped by, who we have been, who we are becoming, and who we will be as an association entering its second century. It is my hope that the 2027 centennial conference creates places and spaces for our growing, diverse, global community to perform collaboration, mutual learning, the wisdom of many, and border crossing in topics, framings, methods, and presentation formats. In doing so, we can amplify goals and aspirations of science education scholarship and practice that strive toward transformation.

Maria Varelas, NARST President

Program Strands

The 2027 NARST program will feature sessions focused on 14 Program Strands and delivered in several session formats. Proposals must identify the Strand that most closely aligns with their proposed topic. The NARST Strands are:

2027 NARST Strands and Descriptions

<i>Strand 1. Science Learning: Development of Student Understanding</i> How students learn from a variety of theoretical perspectives
<i>Strand 2. Science Learning: Contexts, Characteristics, and Interactions</i> Learning environments, teacher-student and student-student interactions, and factors related to and/or affecting learning
<i>Strand 3. Science Teaching--Primary School (Grades preK-6): Characteristics and Strategies</i> Teacher cognition, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, pedagogical content knowledge, instructional materials, and strategies
<i>Strand 4. Science Teaching--Middle and High School (Grades 5-12): Characteristics and Strategies</i> Teacher cognition; content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, pedagogical content knowledge, and instructional materials and strategies.
<i>Strand 5. College Science Teaching and Learning (Grades 13-20)</i> Instructor cognition, content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, pedagogical content knowledge, student understanding and learning, and conceptual change at postsecondary level
<i>Strand 6. Science Learning in Informal Contexts</i> Learning and teaching in museums, outdoor settings, community programs, communications media, and after- school programs
<i>Strand 7. Pre-service Science Teacher Education</i> Pre-service professional development of teachers, pre-service teacher education programs and policy, field experience, and issues related to pre-service teacher education reform
<i>Strand 8. In-service Science Teacher Education</i> Continuing professional development of teachers, in-service teacher education programs and policy, and issues related to in-service teacher education reform
<i>Strand 9 Dissolved (approved by Board March 15, 2020)</i>
<i>Strand 10. Curriculum and Assessment</i> Development, implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of curriculum. Development and validation of assessments, including alternative forms of assessment of teaching and learning
<i>Strand 11. Cultural, Social, and Gender Issues</i> Equity and diversity issues: sociocultural, multicultural, bilingual, racial/ethnic, and gender equity studies
<i>Strand 12. Technology for Teaching, Learning, and Research</i> Advancing applications of technology and digital tools to promote teaching, learning, and research
<i>Strand 13. History, Philosophy, Sociology, and Nature of Science</i> Historical, philosophical, and social issues of science as related to science education
<i>Strand 14. Environmental Education and Sustainability</i> Education related to Earth and ecological systems, environmental literacy and justice, experiential learning, Indigenous perspectives, public participation in science, socio-scientific issues, sustainability, and sustainable development.

Strand 15. Policy, Reform, and Program Evaluation

The construction, interpretation, and implementation of science education policies and reforms at the local, regional, national, or international levels

Virtual Sessions

The NARST 2027 conference is being planned as an in-person event, **with an additional day dedicated to virtual presentations**. If you would like your proposal to be considered for a virtual presentation, you will indicate this by checking a box within the proposal submission form. All the session formats listed below may be considered for virtual sessions. The authorship and presenter policies described below will apply across in-person and virtual sessions, as our goal is to increase opportunities for members to present.

Given the significant costs involved, in-person sessions will not be live-streamed. These sessions may not be attended virtually. If you are unable to travel to the in-person conference, please select the virtual option when submitting your proposal. During a short window following notification of acceptance of your proposal, you are allowed to switch from in-person to virtual providing space is available in the virtual schedule. After this deadline, the in-person and virtual sessions will be set, and we will not accommodate any further changes.

We will try to schedule presentations at times that are reasonable for presenters located around the world. If you are planning to present during the virtual conference day, please respond to a question regarding the nearest time zones to your location. It will help us during scheduling.

Proposal Types: Empirical Research or Theoretical/Position

You will be asked to indicate if your proposal is an empirical research paper or a theoretical/position paper. In most cases, an **Empirical Research** paper reports on a completed empirical study. Works in progress that do not have sufficient data to address the research questions at the time of proposal submission should not be submitted. However, works in progress may be submitted as a proposal for a Work in Progress Roundtable. A **Theoretical/Position** paper can be a literature review, an evidence-based position paper, or a paper that presents an original perspective on a theoretical and/or conceptual framework. Theoretical papers should include recommendations for future research. Refer to the proposal review criteria to determine the best fit for your proposal type.

Program Presentation Formats

Stand-Alone Paper by individual author or co-authors

Traditional presentation format allows for 15-20 minutes of individual presentation time in a theater-style setting. Typically, four papers are scheduled per session for 90 minutes total, and Strand co-coordinators will group them into sessions by theme.

Related Paper Set by multiple authors or co-author groups

A session proposal is submitted for review on behalf of all authors and co-author groups. The session consists of four or five topically related papers presented in a single 90-minute time block. The session proposal must clearly show the topical focus of the session and must identify a presider. Separately, authors/co-author groups submit their individual papers to be included in the session, but do not need to submit a proposal.

Interactive Poster Paper by individual or co-authors

A single author or a group of co-authors may prepare a paper for presentation in poster format. Poster presenters will be grouped with other poster presenters from the same Strand for a 90-minute time block. Many posters will be scheduled at the same time, allowing attendees to interact with presenters and move to other posters in the same session.

Symposium by multiple presenters

Groups of participants may propose a symposium on a topic or issue. The session will involve four to ten participants and must relate to the Strand to which it is submitted. The goals of the symposium should be clear and focused, as should the role of each participant. Symposium sessions will have a 90-minute time block in the program.

Symposium proposals must be submitted as a single document; they may not contain individual papers. However, a symposium can include short presentations to provide context for discussion. The group submitting the proposal will be required to identify their own presider and will decide on the time allocation for presentations and discussion within the 90-minute block. Representation from multiple contexts and countries is encouraged.

Roundtables by individual or co-authors

Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction among presenters and with attendees. They are discussion-oriented and **are not intended to be a substitute for a Standalone Paper presentation or Poster**. The primary focus of the Roundtable is to consider the broader implications of the work and discuss possibilities for the future. Papers accepted for a roundtable session will be grouped into "discussion tables" with three or four papers per table, clustered around shared interests. The session will be scheduled for a 60-minute time slot with authors proceeding according to guidelines distributed at the roundtable sessions. No additional audiovisual equipment, such as a screen or LCD projector, is provided. No power source will be provided. Authors wishing to display information may do so from their own laptop computer screens or distribute handouts. Please **do not** expect to deliver a full presentation – the purpose of a Roundtable discussion is to **discuss**.

Roundtables may be submitted as works in progress. The primary focus is to encourage discussion aimed at moving developing work forward. A discussion table may intermingle works in progress with more fully developed work.

Strand Coordinators may recommend moving a proposed presentation into a different presentation format. The Co-Chairs of the Program Committee are **Maria Varelas**, NARST President, and **Troy Sadler**, NARST president-Elect. The Co-Chairs have the final decision in the assignment of presentation format. If the proposer does not want to present in the format assigned to their presentation, the proposer will have the opportunity to withdraw their proposal.

Presentation Limitations (Number and Originality)

NARST recognizes the value of conference participation to professional reputation and advancement. To ensure an equitable distribution of opportunities to present papers or organize sessions, NARST limits the number of times a person can appear as first author or session organizer.

Additionally, NARST also limits the number of presentations delivered by an individual.

An individual may be:

- First author or presenter of only one stand-alone paper or paper within a related paper set, AND
- First author or presenter of only one interactive poster paper, AND
- First author or presenter of only one roundtable paper, AND
- Organizer/Co-organizer of only one symposium, AND
- A non-presenting co-author on any number of stand-alone, related paper set, roundtable, and/or interactive poster papers.

Authorship and designated presenter information will be checked. If you are the first author or a designated presenter on more than the allowed number, the additional proposals must be withdrawn, or authorship or designated presenter must be changed.

NARST proposals submitted for presentations at the Annual International Conference MUST be original work that has not been published or presented at any other conference (e.g., AERA, ASERA, ASTE, ESERA).

Preparing and Formatting the Proposal

These guidelines apply to all proposals regardless of mode of conference attendance (in person or virtual).

The proposal PDF should not include an abstract; the abstract will be submitted in a separate form field. All in-text citations should be included in a reference list and references must be in APA format. The reference list will not count toward the page limits.

Stand-Alone Paper or Poster. The maximum length is five single-spaced pages (excluding references but including tables and figures).

Related Paper Set. The maximum length of the session proposal is 10 single-spaced pages (excluding references but including tables and figures). This should begin with a summary of the entire set describing how all of the papers are related, and then provide details of each individual paper integrated into one document.

Symposium. The maximum length is 10 single spaced pages (excluding references but including tables and figures). This should include a description of the overall session topic or issue in one document and indicate how the session will run (e.g., panel discussion followed by group discussion).

Related Paper Set and Symposium proposals sometimes involved a mixed format (e.g. a panel discussion plus several posters). The standard room setup is theater seating with a panel table at the front of the room. If your session requires a room setup other than standard seating, you must indicate the desired room setup during submission. The submission form includes diagrams of the possible room setups.

Roundtable and Work in progress Roundtable. The maximum length is 5 single spaced pages (excluding references but including tables and figures). All in-text citations should be included in the reference list and references must be in APA format. Please note that a roundtable discussion "table" may include work at different stages of completion.

Proposals must be **single-spaced with 1" (2.54 cm) margins all around, and in font no smaller than 12 on US Letter size paper (8.5" x 11")**. If you usually use A4 paper, please convert to US letter size as you finalize your proposal, *before* converting to a PDF format for submission.

Criteria for Review

Your proposal must address the primary criteria that are part of the review process. See the rubric included in this call for details of each criterion.

- subject/problem
- design/procedure
- findings and analysis
- contribution to the teaching and learning of science
- how likely is this presentation to impact members?
- for Roundtables only, have the authors clearly articulated what they would like to discuss?
- for Related Paper Sets only, have the authors clearly indicated how the individual presentations contribute to a cohesive whole?

Anonymizing the Proposal

All proposals submitted to NARST go through an **anonymized, peer-reviewed process**. Anonymized means there is no information within the proposal that could identify who the author/co-authors are or where they work.

During submission, the submitting author must affirm that they have anonymized the proposal. Authors are **required** to remove **any** identifiers in the proposal pertaining to the authors and their institutional affiliations. This includes information pertaining to the project and research grant or project identifiers. Authors must disguise any information that may lead to the identification of authors. For example, instead of the name of a university use a general description like "research university located in the southeast of the United States". In addition, for self-citations please use the third person, instead of "we" or "I". Include in-text citations as "Author" (e.g. Author, 2019). In the reference list, use only the term "Author" or "Authors" followed by date of publication. These items should be alphabetized in the reference list using the term "Author" or "Authors," not by the author's real name.

Please be aware that PDF files contain metadata that may identify you as the author. After creating your proposal PDF, open it and click on File/Properties. Check whether your name, institution or other identifying information are displayed. If so, delete that information and save the PDF file.

NOTE: Proposals that do not meet these criteria must be corrected or they will not be reviewed.

Creating an Account and Submitting a Proposal

The 2027 NARST Annual International Conference will employ the Oxford Abstracts System, hereafter referred to as “OAS”. OAS supports proposal submission and review, session building and scheduling, conference program creation, and a mobile-friendly conference program display with personal itinerary and other advanced features.

Step 1. To begin, you must have an OAS account. Go to the OAS Dashboard:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/dashboard>

If you submitted or reviewed proposals via OAS for previous NARST conferences, OAS will recognize your login and you do not need to create a new account. Please test your login by entering your email address and password. **If you successfully log in, proceed to Step 2.**

If your email address is not recognized by OAS, you must create an account before you can submit a proposal. Please click on **Create an Account**, then **Continue with email**. Enter your preferred email address; it will be used as your login username. **NARST members, we recommend that you use the same email address as you use to log into the NARST member portal.** Enter your name, professional title (optional), and choose a strong password that you can remember (8+ characters including a letter and a number). Thereafter, OAS will recognize you by your login email, whether you are submitting, editing, or reviewing a proposal; browsing the conference program; reading presentation abstracts; or other conference functions. All communications sent via OAS will be addressed to your login email.

You will receive an email from OAS; click on the **verify your email address** link to complete the creation of your OAS account.

The OAS dashboard display will inform you that you are not connected to any events. That only means that you haven’t interacted with the NARST 2027 Conference yet. For many people, their first OAS interaction will be submitting a conference proposal.

Step 2. Now that you have an OAS account, you can begin submitting your proposal. Go to the NARST 2026 Conference Proposal Submissions form:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/81422/submitter>

As soon as you start a draft proposal, your account will be linked to the 2027 Conference. Enter some of the proposal information (e.g. the proposal title), then save your work by scrolling down and clicking on **Submit** at the bottom of the proposal submission form. A popup window will list the items that you have not yet completed; just click on **Continue** to save your draft proposal. You will receive an email

confirming that you have saved an incomplete proposal.

To continue working on your draft proposal, return to OAS at any time using the convenient Dashboard link:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/dashboard>

If the 2027 Conference is your first interaction with OAS, the 2027 Conference working area will be displayed.

If you previously submitted a proposal via OAS for any of the NARST Conferences, you will see a link to the 2027 conference working area, and additional links to previous Conferences. **Click on the 2027 Conference** to enter the 2027 working area.

You will see your draft proposal listed in the Submissions section, initially labeled as “Incomplete” with an Edit link to allow you to continue working on your proposal. When you have provided all required proposal information, the Dashboard will indicate that the proposal is Complete.

If you are submitting more than one proposal (e.g., one Standalone Paper and one Poster), each proposal will be listed in the Submissions section of the OAS Dashboard.

Entering Proposal Information into the OAS Proposal Submission Form

Q1. Empirical Research or Theoretical/Position

An **Empirical Research** paper reports on completed empirical study. Works in progress that do not have sufficient data to address the research questions at the time of proposal submission should not be submitted. The sole exception is Work-in-progress Roundtable proposals.

A **Theoretical/Position** paper can be a literature review, an evidence-based position paper, or a paper that presents an original perspective on a theoretical and/or conceptual framework. Theoretical papers should include recommendations for future research.

Related Paper Sets may include a mix of research and theoretical papers.

Q2. Methodological approach

Select the most appropriate option for your proposal:

- Mixed Methods
- Positional/review
- Qualitative
- Quantitative
- Theoretical

Q3. Proposal title

Submissions must provide either a **presentation title** or a **session title** in this field. Please read and

follow these instructions carefully.

DO NOT use ALL CAPS for the title.

Stand-Alone Papers, Posters, and Roundtables: Enter your presentation title.

Symposium: Enter the session title.

Related Paper Sets: Related Paper Sets will involve one submission from a session organizer that includes the full proposal; and additional submissions by the presenting authors. The latter are used to collect author and presentation information.

- If you are a session organizer submitting the full proposal on behalf of a Related Paper Set, enter the session title.
- If you are submitting an individual presentation within a Related Paper Set, enter your presentation title here, and enter the session title in the next field.

Q4. If your presentation is part of a Related Paper Set, enter the session title here

If you are submitting one of the presentations included in a Related Paper Set proposal, please enter your presentation title above, and enter the Related Paper Set session title here. This will allow us to place your submitted presentation within the session.

Q5. Abstract

Enter an abstract of your proposed presentation or session (max 200 words). The abstract will be provided to reviewers. If your proposal is accepted, the abstract will be made available to all conference attendees in the conference program.

Do not include the abstract in the proposal PDF file.

Do not include any identifying information in your abstract.

Do not use ALL CAPS, all lowercase letters, or undefined abbreviations in your abstract. Please write in complete sentences.

Q6. Authors and Affiliations

IMPORTANT: Please check with your co-authors or session co-organizers regarding their correct affiliation and email address. They will be identified by the email address they used in the Oxford Abstracts system. If you enter a different email address for them, it will be treated as a different person. Presentations and panels may have up to TEN authors, including yourself.

Stand-Alone Papers, Posters, Roundtables: Enter the names of ALL authors - including yourself - in the order in which you wish them to appear in the program. Omitted names will not appear in the author index or in the final program. At least one author must be identified as the Presenting Author. Presenting authors are those individuals who actually deliver the presentation. Most presentations have only one presenter. All presenting authors must register for the conference by the advance registration deadline.

Symposia: Enter the names of all panelists - including yourself - in the order in which you wish them to appear in the program. Omitted names will not appear in the author index or in the final program. Panelists are not considered to be "Presenting Authors" and the Presenting Author box should not be checked. However, all symposium proposals must identify a session President. **Check the Presenting Author box to identify one panelist who will act as President.**

Related Paper Sets:

Session organizer: If you are the lead organizer of this Related Paper Set and are submitting the session proposal, enter information for yourself and any co-organizers. **Check the Presenting Author box to identify one organizer who will act as President.**

Presentation authors: If you are submitting an individual presentation within a Related Paper Set, enter the authors - including yourself - in the order in which you wish them to appear in the program. At least one author must be designated as the Presenting Author.

Q7. Co-author name and email (checkbox)

The submitting author will be asked to affirm that they have consulted with their co-authors and have entered the correct information.

Q8. Strands

All proposals are associated with one of the Strands. Please select the most appropriate Strand for this proposal.

Q9. Presentation format

Please choose the preferred presentation or session format. The format types are:

- Stand-Alone Paper
- Poster
- Roundtable
- Work-in-progress Roundtable
- Symposium
- Related Paper Set

For Stand-Alone Papers, Posters, and Roundtables, Strand Coordinators will endeavor to respect your preferred format, but limitations on available space and time slots may require that your presentation be assigned to a different format. You may choose an acceptable alternative format in the next form field.

The final decision regarding presentation format rests with the Program Chairs.

Q10. Alternative presentation format

For Stand-Alone Paper, Poster, Roundtable, and work in Progress Roundtable presentations, please select an acceptable alternative format to be used if your preferred format is not available. We will endeavor to respect your preferred format. Leaving the alternative format blank will not affect the likelihood that your presentation will be accepted.

Q11. Alternative room layouts for Symposium and Related Paper Set sessions

If your Symposium or Related Paper Set session requires an alternative room setup, you must explain it in the proposal PDF and select the most appropriate room setup. The alternative setup options are theater seating with long tables for poster boards; and round tables. If you do not make a selection, standard theater seating is assumed.

Q12. Proposal PDF

Most submissions will include a full proposal for peer review.

Related Paper Sets require submission of a single proposal describing the session. Additionally, each of the individual presentations within the Related Paper Set are submitted to collect author and presentation information, but they do not include individual proposal PDF files.

To prepare your proposal, refer to the Proposal Formatting guidelines described above. Proposal files will be examined by Strand Coordinators, and proposals that do not conform to the guidelines must be corrected and replaced before they can be reviewed.

Upload your proposal file as a PDF document of 10 MB or less.

Your proposal PDF file will be renamed automatically to help mask the identity of the authors and submitter.

Q13. Proposal PDF has been anonymized (checkbox)

The submitting authors are asked to confirm that the proposal file has been anonymized and does not contain any identifying information about any of the proposal authors.

Q14. Use of AI disclosure (Yes/No)

When using AI for any aspect of proposal creation, authors should clearly disclose what AI tools were used and how they were used. Authors should make it clear what, if any, text or other content (e.g., images or data displays) included in the proposal was the product of an AI tool. These disclosures should be made in a proposal's methods section, when AI use relates to the design, enactment, or analysis of the research, or at the end of the proposal.

Q15. In-person / Virtual Presentation

The NARST 2027 conference is being planned as an in-person event, with an additional day (March 31) dedicated entirely to virtual presentations. Given the significant costs involved, we are not planning to allow remote presentations during in-person sessions, and we are not planning to live-stream any in-person sessions.

If you are unable to travel to the in-person conference but wish to present during the online conference day (March 31), select the Virtual Presentation option. All presentation and session formats will be considered for the virtual sessions, but the allotted time may differ from an in-person presentation.

Your choice of In-person vs Virtual Presentation will not be visible to reviewers and will not affect the accept/reject decision.

Q16. Your time zone (virtual presentations only)

If you are planning to present during the Virtual Conference Day on March 31, 2027, please indicate the band of time zones closest to your physical location. This will help us to schedule presentations at reasonable times for the presenters.

Q17. Volunteer to serve as a session presider

Conference sessions benefit from having a Presider who keeps the session on time. Stand-Alone Paper Sets and Roundtable sessions depend on volunteers to act as Presider. Please volunteer! We will endeavor to match your expertise with an appropriate topical session, will only assign you as Presider for one session, and will re-confirm your availability well in advance of the conference. To volunteer, please select 1-3 Strands for which you would be willing to act as a Presider for one Stand-Alone Paper Set or Roundtable session.

Q18-22. Volunteer to review

Careful peer review is crucial to the quality of the NARST Conference. Reviewers are leadership roles that may contribute to your professional development and can be notated on your curriculum vita.

Please consider volunteering to be a proposal reviewer by completing this section of the proposal submission form. You will be asked to select 1-3 appropriate Strands, to choose the number of proposals you are willing to review, and to select 2 keywords that best fit your reviewing expertise. You will also be asked to identify your experience level by selecting one of four broad career stages. Individuals at all career stages are very welcome to review! Experience level will only be visible to Strand Coordinators. Some conference proposal reviewers are not planning to submit a proposal, but will be co-authors or session co-organizers, or are willing to review even if they cannot attend the conference.

If you will not be submitting a proposal but are willing to review, please complete the Volunteer to Review form at:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/reviewer-recruitment/events/77070>

Thank you in advance for contributing to the success of the conference!

Other Information**Reviewer Rubric and Checklist**

See the Reviewer Rubric in this document for a more complete description of the review criteria. In addition, the checklist at the end of this document may help you to ensure you have addressed the proposal requirements.

Answers to **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** regarding preparation and submission of proposals are available at <https://narst.org/conferences/faq>. The FAQ will be updated periodically to address new recurring questions.

Confirmation of Submission

All proposal submission and updates including completion of the submission process will be acknowledged by auto-generated email to the submitting author or session organizer. Additionally, when all required information has been provided, the submitter's OAS Dashboard will list the proposal as Complete rather than Incomplete.

Only the submitter will be able to view the proposal and its reviews in OAS.

Only the submitter will receive the decision email.

The submitter is responsible for relaying information about submissions, reviews, and decisions to their co-authors or co-organizers.

To inquire about your proposal, please contact paulkemp@narst.org, and provide the proposal ID number in addition to your name.

Submission Deadline

The submission [deadline](#) is **5:00 pm (17:00) YOUR local time on Saturday, August 15, 2026** (the annual NARST proposal submission deadline). Typically, over 90% of proposals are submitted in the final 72 hours. This rush can result in system slowdowns. We encourage you to submit your proposal before these last hours to avoid potential delays.

Requirements for Presenting Authors

All presenting authors on accepted proposals must register for the conference.

The presenting author(s) must register for the Annual International Conference by the close of the Advance Registration period (to be announced).

Registration reminders will be emailed. Presenting authors who do not register by the Advance Registration deadline may have their presentation removed from the conference program. It is the responsibility of each presenting author to comply with this requirement. By submitting a proposal, you agree that the Presenting Author will register by the deadline or the presentation will be removed from the program.

Registration Requirement

All presenting authors – and all conference attendees – are required to register for the NARST Annual International Conference. Conference registration opens in early December.

Presentation Needs at the In-Person Conference

One LCD projector and screen are provided in each presentation room throughout the conference for Stand-Alone Papers, Related Paper Sets, and Symposia. Computers, speakers, and other presentation devices are not provided, so you will need to make your own arrangement for the presentation of electronic material. Please bring connectors as needed.

NARST Proposal Review Rubric

For each category, 3-4 criteria are required. Given the constraints of the 5-page limit for individual paper, poster, and roundtable proposals (10-page limit for related paper set and symposium session proposals), please assign a numerical rating using the following descriptors as a guide:

5	Highly evident:	Proposal provides clear, substantive, and coherent evidence of all criteria
4	Adequately evident:	Proposal adequately describes all criteria in the category.
3	Mostly evident:	Proposal adequately describes 2 out of 3 criteria in the category
2	Somewhat evident:	Proposal adequately describes 1 out of 3 criteria in the category
1	Not evident:	Proposal does not adequately describe any of the criteria in the category

You should explain your numerical ratings by responding to the rubric questions with constructive feedback identifying the proposal's strengths and weaknesses in the text boxes provided. Answering Yes or No to the criteria questions is not considered acceptable feedback. With respect to proposals for related paper sets and symposia, your comments should reflect the quality of each of the papers included in the proposal in addition to your summative recommendation and underlying rationale for the proposal as a whole. Reviews should be constructive and respectful.

Subject/Problem

1. Is there a clear focus for the study?
2. Does the proposal include a clear rationale for the study?
3. Does the proposal describe the model, theoretical framework, or philosophy of the study?

Design or Procedure

Research Papers [Empirical Studies]

1. Does the proposal clearly describe the methodology (theory of method)?
2. Does the proposal clearly describe the research methods, design, and study context?
3. Are the methodology, procedure, and design appropriate for the study and clearly aligned with the problem?

Theoretical Papers [Non-Empirical Studies (e.g., conceptual or position papers, reviews of literature)]

1. Does the proposal clearly describe the approach used to develop the argument or conduct the review?
2. Are the ideological/philosophical positions of the author and sources made clear?
3. Does the proposal include an appropriate range of literature?

Analyses and Findings

Research Papers [Empirical Studies]

1. Do the data analyses appear to be appropriate, coherent, complete, and aligned with the research questions?
2. Are the arguments or interpretations supported by the data and linked to prior literature?

3. Does the proposal discuss alternative interpretations, bias, reliability, or validity as appropriate?
Theoretical Papers [Non-Empirical Studies (e.g., conceptual or position papers, reviews of literature)]
 1. Do the syntheses of ideas appear to be appropriate, coherent, and complete?
 2. Are the arguments or interpretations supported by evidence?
 3. Does the proposal discuss alternative interpretations, counterarguments, or bias, as appropriate?

Contribution

1. Do the conclusions add to, refine, or refute theoretical constructs?
2. Do conclusions contribute valuable insights and implications into teaching/learning/researching science education?
3. Does the proposal clearly address, and have implications for, equity issues related to NARST's goal of helping all learners achieve science literacy, including but not limited to race, sex, gender expression, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, access, ability, sexual orientation, language, national origin, and/or religion?

Cohesiveness* (Related Paper-Sets ONLY)

1. Are all of the papers in the set focused on a similar concept/theme?
2. Do all papers contribute new information to the set, making a meaningful strongly related whole?
3. Do all papers contain high quality information leading to a rigorous and comprehensive understanding of the theme?

General Interest

1. Does the content of the presentation promise to be of general interest to NARST members interested in this strand?
2. Is the content presented in a way that will be meaningful to NARST members interested in this strand?
3. Does the paper promise to be of interest to the education community at large?
4. For **Roundtables only**, has the author clearly articulated what they wish to discuss in the Roundtable session?

Overall Rating (1-not recommended; 5 highly recommended)

To maintain the high quality of NARST presentations, please ensure your recommendation aligns with your ratings.

Proposal Submission Checklist

The completion of this checklist may be helpful in ensuring your proposal meets the requirements.

- ☐ Names of author(s) correct and consistent throughout
- ☐ Used preferred names, affiliations, and email address for all co-authors
- ☐ Proposal is properly anonymized
 - ☐ Uses pseudonyms to mask locations that may identify author(s)
 - ☐ Omit names or other information that may identify author(s)
 - ☐ Specific descriptions (e.g., curriculum developed by authors) that may identify author(s) are made more general
 - ☐ Third person is used to refer to self-citations
 - ☐ In-text citations and the reference list use “Author” or “Authors” followed by publication date for self-citations, and are alphabetized accordingly
 - ☐ The proposal PDF does not have any references to name, institution or other identifying information (this information is typically found in File/Properties)
- ☐ The submitting author and presenter(s) have not exceeded the allowed number of submissions
- ☐ The submission does not identify authors as "presenters" unless they will be registered, in the room, and actually presenting
- ☐ The proposal addresses all of the review criteria described in the proposal review rubric
- ☐ Format of the submission meets requirements
 - ☐ 1” margins all around
 - ☐ No font smaller than 12pt
 - ☐ US letter size paper (8.5” x 11”) is used
 - ☐ No more than 5 pages (excluding references) for paper, poster, or roundtable

- ☐ No more than 10 pages (excluding references) for symposium or related paper set
- ☐ Proposal does not include abstract (submitted separately)
- ☐ All citations included in the proposal body are included in the reference list
- ☐ References adhere to APA format
- ☐ Submission indicates alternative presentation format, if applicable
- ☐ Submission indicates alternative room setup, if applicable; reason for an alternative room setup is stated in proposal
- ☐ For virtual-day submissions, submission indicated presenter's approximate time zone
- ☐ Any use of AI tools has been acknowledged, and explained within the proposal PDF

Timeline (target dates are approximate)

Target Date	Tasks
Tuesday July 1	Call for proposals is issued
August 15	Submission deadline for peer-reviewed proposals. OAS will close for new submissions but remain open for edits.
August 18	Invite co-authors to volunteer to review
August 21	Deadline for authors to complete revisions requested by Strand Coordinators, and upload replacement proposal file to OAS.
August 31	Reviewers receive proposal assignments.
September 18	Reviewers submit completed proposal ratings and recommendations to OAS.
October 5	Strand Coordinators recommend decisions and presentation formats, and group accepted Stand-alone Paper proposals into sessions.
Mid-late October	Decision notifications are sent to submitting authors. Reviews are available to submitting authors in OAS.
Early December	Conference registration opens
February	Deadline for presenters to register; Advance Registration ends