Research Starters - Education - FAQs

The following are Frequently Asked Questions about Research Starters - Education.

What are Research Starters - Education?

Research Starters offer students a starting point for their research. By providing comprehensive summaries of discipline-specific topics, they help students grasp the broad outlines of a subject, realize its real-world applications, critically engage it, and locate sources for researching it in greater detail. Most articles are around 3,000 words, making them more in-depth than the average textbook or encyclopedia entry, yet short enough to be easily digestible.

Each Research Starters - Education article contains:

- **Abstract**
  The abstract provides a brief summary of the article. It introduces the topic and covers the main points of each article section. Also, it contains the most important keywords appearing in the article to help users locate the articles most relevant to their search.

- **Keywords**
  The list of keywords contains words that are especially pertinent to the article. They describe the subtopics and major researchers or theorists discussed in the article and include the vocabulary defined in the Terms & Concepts section of the article. When any of these keywords are entered into the search box, the article will be retrieved.

- **Overview**
  The overview introduces the topic by explaining why it is relevant to education and what implications it has for stakeholders like teachers, administrators, students, or parents. When appropriate, the overview may also situate the topic within a specific historical or social context. Finally, the overview describes how the various subtopics discussed in the article relate to one another, helping the reader build a framework for understanding and applying the topic as a whole.

- **Further Insights / Applications**
  This section demonstrates how the points discussed in the overview can be applied to everyday teaching and administration. Here, the reader can find charts, graphs, diagrams, and real life examples that deepen understanding. With more complex, abstract topics, this section may also further develop the points discussed in the overview.

- **Viewpoints / Issues / Discourse**
  This section helps the reader develop a critical perspective on the topic by discussing an application’s shortcomings or introducing experts’ differing opinions on the topic. Some topics that are more clear-cut may not include this section.

- **Terms & Concepts**
  The Terms & Concepts section is a short glossary that helps the reader grasp the key vocabulary associated with
the topic. It lists and defines between eight and fifteen words and phrases that appear in the article and may be unfamiliar to students. These words and phrases also appear on the keyword list to facilitate searching.

- **Bibliography**
  The bibliography lists the sources the author used to write the article. Many of these sources are from EBSCO databases, and students can look here to follow up any questions they may have about the topic.

- **Suggested Reading**
  The Suggested Reading section lists at least three additional sources students can turn to for further research. Many of these sources are articles from EBSCO’s *Education Research Complete* database, and hyperlinks are provided to help students locate them quickly and easily. This section may also list print sources that are often referenced in experts’ discussions of the topic.

**Which categories and topics are covered in *Research Starters - Education*?**

Articles are broken down into twenty-six categories, each of which contains between ten and thirty-five article topics. The categories include:

1. Early Childhood Education
2. Public School Education
3. Adult Education
4. Special Education
5. Physical Education
6. Extended Learning
7. Service Learning
8. Education & the Law
9. School Administration & Policy
10. School Safety
11. Curriculum Organization
12. Politics, Government & Education
13. History of Education
14. Educational Theory
15. Teaching Methods
16. Technology in Education
17. Testing & Evaluation
18. Educational Psychology
19. Multicultural Education
20. English as a Second Language
21. Alternative Education
22. Teacher Education
23. Guidance & Counseling
24. Research in Education
25. Higher Education
26. International Perspectives

For a complete list of topics in each category, click here.

How were the Research Starters - Education topics chosen?

The Research Starters - Education topics were chosen through careful analysis of the course offerings of college and universities with leading education programs like the University of Michigan, Harvard University, Boston University, Syracuse University, New York University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University, University of California at Berkeley, the University of Virginia, and SUNY Albany.

Subject matter experts holding advanced degrees in education were also consulted to ensure that the articles encompassed current trends and hot topics.

What are the credentials of Research Starters - Education writers and subject experts?

The Research Starters - Education writers and subject experts are highly qualified professors, school administrators, consultants, educators, counselors, and professional writers. They all have significant experience in education, in and out of the classroom, and hold advanced degrees in fields as diverse as elementary, secondary and subject specific (math, science, physical ed.) education as well as in education administration, counseling, psychology, and writing.

Which EBSCO databases were used to create the Research Starters - Education articles?

The Research Starters - Education writers made use of the Education Research Complete and Academic Search Premier databases. Other databases, such SPORTDiscus and Humanities International Complete, were also referenced for specialized sub-topics.

I'm researching a particular topic. Why can't I find any Research Starters articles that cover it?

If you can’t find any articles on a particular topic, try broadening your search terms or searching for related topics. The topic you’re looking for might be subtopic within a larger article. For example, try searching "reading" instead of “phonics,” or try searching for “Title IX” instead of “gender equality.” If you still aren’t able to find information on a particular topic, please let us know. We periodically update Research Starters with new articles to stay up to date with developing trends and topics, and welcome our users’ input.