

ATD 2026 International Conference & EXPO

Proposal Types

Failure Case Study

A candid, structured exploration of real-world initiatives that did not go as planned. Presenters share key decisions, breakdowns, and turning points in their efforts, alongside reflections on what they learned, what they would do differently, and how they recovered. These sessions are designed to normalize failure as a learning process, offer insight into complex implementation challenges, and spark dialogue around adaptation and resilience. While the format is largely narrative and reflective, sessions may include opportunities for participant discussion, Q&A, or personal application.

These sessions are typically 60 minutes long.

Attendees will be able to:

- Describe key factors that contributed to the failure or breakdown of a project, strategy, or initiative.
- Identify transferable lessons and adaptations shared by presenters.
- Reflect on how to apply failure-informed insights to their own work and decision-making processes.

Innogizer

A high-energy session, with interactive activities that spark creativity and encourage attendees to think out of the box about a topic. These sessions involve energetic or unexpected activities (like improv, dance, drumming, games or other energizers) or provocative and unexpected prompts, and they are designed to unlock new ways of approaching familiar challenges.

These sessions are typically 60 minutes long.

Attendees will be able to:

- Apply creative thinking to professional challenges.
- Identify simple strategies to use energy-shifting techniques in their own learning environments.

Panel Discussion

A moderated conversation among multiple subject matter experts or practitioners, offering diverse perspectives on a shared topic, challenge, or theme. Panelists may share contrasting experiences, lessons learned, or complementary strategies in response to curated questions. While primarily delivered in a conversational, interview-style format, panel sessions may include opportunities for audience participation through Q&A or reflection prompts.

These sessions are typically 60 minutes long.

Attendees will be able to:

- Compare different perspectives or approaches related to a shared challenge or topic.

- Identify strategies, practices, or considerations discussed by panelists that may be relevant to their own context.
- Articulate questions or insights that emerge from hearing multiple viewpoints on a single theme.

Traditional Case Study

A structured discussion about a specific case or scenario that introduces a problem, how it was addressed, and how attendees can apply insights to their own contexts. This format is primarily lecture style, but may allow for some participant interaction, either from questions and answers or opportunities to apply the content.

These sessions are typically 60 minutes long.

Attendees will be able to:

- Explain the impact of a theory, solution, or idea had in an identified situation.
- Identify reasons to employ this theory, solution, or idea.
- Identify conditions for successful deployment of a particular theory, solution, or idea.

Traditional Lecture

A structured session led by one or more subject matter experts delivering key insights, models, or case studies. The format is primarily lecture-style, with limited interaction, such as question-and-answer sessions or small group discussions.

These sessions are typically 60 minutes long.

Attendees will be able to:

- Introduce a new idea, framework, or practice.
- Identify the rationale and evidence behind a concept or approach.
- Identify at least one insight to explore further or apply in their context.

Workshop

A structured learning session facilitated by one or more experts where attendees have hands-on activities to apply skills or knowledge in scripted activities. Emphasizes interactive learning guided by a facilitator or facilitators and applied practice.

These sessions are typically 60 minutes long.

Attendees will be able to:

- Select strategies, skills, or knowledge that can be applied to and used in a particular challenge or context.
- Apply specific skills, strategies, or knowledge in a particular challenge or context.
- Discuss considerations around applying workshop specific strategies, skills, and knowledge.