ATIXA Writing Outcome Rationales
Workshop Agenda

Description:
Both investigators and decision-makers must be proficient in writing precise rationales to support their decisions at applicable points of the Resolution Process. Rationales are complex and require significant analytical and writing abilities to convey the practitioner’s thoughts in writing, including elements such as an analysis of all the facts considered, policy application, a credibility assessment, application of the standard of proof, finding, final determination, elaboration of sanctions, and the reasons therefor.

Understanding your rationale is one thing – reducing it to writing is another. An investigator or decision-maker may be able to identify credibility concerns, but how do you explain to someone else why one party has greater credibility than the other?

ATIXA’s Title IX Rationale Writing Best Practices Workshop is focused on supporting attendees in developing rationale writing proficiency. There will be brief instruction, a discussion of a unique and complex case study, a break for participants to draft their own rationales, and then selective (anonymous) sharing of the drafts with the group for review and feedback by the instructor and participants. All participants will also receive a copy of ATIXA’s model rationale for the complaint.

Learning Outcomes:
After completing this workshop participants will be able to…
- Explain ATIXA’s recommended rationale review and approval process
- Distinguish the types of evidence and statements that should be included in a rationale
- Synthesize and distill complex concepts into clear, concise writing
- Describe the structure of rationales and the purpose they serve in the process
- Understand how rationales may be subject to litigation and legal scrutiny

Workshop Topics

Purpose of the Rationale
- Types of Rationales

Rationale Writing
- Templates
Drafting Protocol
Audience Awareness

Best Practices

Case Study
- Individual Rationale Writing Time
- Large Group Feedback and Discussion

Note: Workshops do not include a standard break. Participants are welcome to eat and/or drink during the workshop and step away for other needs as necessary. Workshop start and end times for in-person events are determined by the host site. All virtual workshops take place from 11 AM – 3 PM ET unless otherwise specified.