* The main steps in the process of conducting educational research are as follows:

	+ Identifying and limiting a research topic or problem
	+ Formally stating and refining research questions
	+ Reviewing existing literature related to the problem
	+ Writing a literature review
	+ Developing a research plan
	+ Implementing the plan and collecting data
	+ Analyzing the collected data
	+ Stating findings, conclusions, and recommendations
* Identification of the focus of the study is one of the most critical decisions in the process of conducting educational research.

	+ The topic should be of personal interest to you and should be manageable.
* Care must be taken in formally stating research questions, as they guide the remainder of the study.
* Reviewing existing literature and writing a literature review can provide a great deal of guidance to a research study.

	+ Related literature can inform specification of the problem, development of research questions, and determination of research designs and analyses.
* *How*the research study is actually conducted is known as the research method.

	+ Many critical decisions about the research method must be made, including those related to data, participants, instrumentation, timeframe, research ethics, and data analysis.
* Methods used to collect data can be quite diverse.

	+ Categories of techniques include observational techniques, interviews, existing data, and data collected through standard educational processes.
* Quantitative data analysis involves statistical techniques and is typically accomplished using statistical analysis software.
* Qualitative data analysis is an inductive process that must be facilitated in the mind of the researcher.
* Analysis of data collected in mixed-methods studies involves both kinds of data analysis and essentially merges the results.
* Findings, conclusions, and recommendations should be stated so they follow logically from all that has preceded in the study.
* The purpose behind stating conclusions and recommendations is to take the answers to the research questions and contextualize them with respect to the broader field of education.
* Extreme caution must be used so that conclusions and recommendations are not stated so globally that they extend beyond the parameters of the study.
* It is important to keep in mind that there is not a single way to research any given topic. Different approaches, methodologies, and data can be used to investigate the same or similar research topics.