

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The Adaptive Strategies Compass™ in Title IX Deployment · From Complaint to Finding

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The methodology taught in From Complaint to Finding is Teach to Talk®, ASC's complete interviewing method. The Adaptive Strategies Compass™ is its navigation tool: an eight-direction framework grounded in cognitive psychology, disclosure science, and the published interviewing research, calibrated here for education-sector investigations. The governing principle is equal rigor: the same disciplined methodology applied to complainant, respondent, and witness alike, which is what the regulations' impartiality requirements demand of the interview itself.

Direction 1	TEACH Explain the person's role in the process and how the interview will work. Teach the communication task without assuming that a complainant, respondent, or witness already understands it. Check application and make clarification, correction, and uncertainty possible throughout the account.
Direction 2	ACCESS Model A six-stage investigative thinking framework (Assess, Collect, Collate, Evaluate, Survey, Summarize) applied to the full arc of a Title IX or conduct investigation from intake notice through final determination.
Direction 3	Communication Adaptation Adjust pace, language, structure, and processing space to observable needs across students, faculty, staff, and parents. Verify the effect while preserving impartiality and the person's own account. Never used to assess credibility, detect deception, or support an investigative conclusion.
Direction 4	Cognitive Interview The research-validated technique (Fisher and Geiselman) for improving recall accuracy, applied to interviews where the incident may have occurred weeks or months before the conversation, without leading and without contamination.
Direction 5	Route Map Pre-interview planning that anticipates the sequencing of complainant, witness, and respondent interviews, where each conversation will branch, and how to navigate in real time without contaminating later interviews.
Direction 6	Barrier Mapping Five barriers: Fear, Shame, Loyalty, Distrust, Reactance. Diagnosing what stands between a party and a full account, and removing it, rather than applying pressure. Grounded in procedural-justice, reactance, and disclosure research.
Direction 7	Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE) Sequencing evidence and exhibits (Granhag and Hartwig) so the interview tests consistency without crossing into accusation. Preserves impartiality even when the investigator believes they know what happened.
Direction 8	Alignment Method Challenge-and-clarify questioning that resolves contradictions in testimony fairly. Disciplined intervention that produces clarification rather than confession, inside the procedural limits Title IX and conduct frameworks require.

Research anchors. FBI High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group rapport research; the UN Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing; Fisher and Geiselman, the Enhanced Cognitive Interview; Granhag and Hartwig, Strategic Use of Evidence; Tyler, procedural justice; Brehm, psychological reactance theory; Miller and Rollnick, Motivational Interviewing; disclosure-barrier research in the victim and witness literature.