<table>
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<th>Stages of the Research Process</th>
<th>Common feelings connected to this stage</th>
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| **Stage 1: Choosing a Topic and Asking Questions**  
- Define your research problem  
- Explore topics  
- Do some background reading  
- Create questions to guide your research | Apprehension, uncertainty about the work ahead |
| **Stage 2: Identifying resources**  
- Figure out what resources you’ll need to best answer your questions and solve your research problem (i.e., people, books, magazines, newspapers, videos, websites, and any other source of information)  
- Make sure you have access to the kinds of sources you’ll need and that there are enough to complete your research | Confusion, doubt, uncertainty |
| **Stage 3: Planning your search**  
- Narrow or broaden your topic into a research question  
- Create subject and keyword lists to search  
- Prioritize your questions  
- Create interview questions, schedule interviews, and organize your search time | Confusion, doubt, uncertainty |
| **Stage 4: Hunting and Gathering**  
- Gather all the information you think you’ll need  
- Use all your locating skills, including skimming and scanning, using indexes and tables of contents, checking for gaps in information, and recording bibliographic information  
- Take notes | Realization of extensive work to be done; confidence; increased interest in topic of research |
| **Stage 5: Evaluating and Organizing**  
- Decide what to keep, what to leave out, how to record the information, how to organize your notes into useful parts  
- Figure out what are the best sources available  
- Decide which sources are reliable and credible. Verify facts and sources. | Confidence or uncertainty |
| **Stage 6: Making It Your Own**  
- Once you’ve gathered lots of information about your topic, you’ll still need to make it your own by adding your own thinking to it  
- You might analyze, interpret, compare, or view facts from another perspective  
- You may use facts from a variety of sources to create a completely new argument or solve a problem in an original way | Growing sense of clarity - or doubt, based on what has been discovered |
| **Stage 7: Communicating Your Findings**  
- This stage involves all the issues in sharing what you’ve learned with your audience  
- This includes deciding on a format (paper, web page, PowerPoint presentation, video, etc.); identifying the audience; choosing the tone and style of communication; proofreading, editing, and revising; citing your sources; and preparing a bibliography | Apprehension that you’ve taken your research in the right direction and communicated it well |
| **Stage 8: Looking Back on What You Learned and How You Learned**  
- This stage involves thinking about the content you learned and the process you went through to do your research | Satisfaction or disappointment; relief; stronger sense of own strengths or weaknesses as a researcher |