

Stages of the Research Process	Common feelings connected to this stage
<b>Stage 1: Choosing a Topic and Asking Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define your research problem</li> <li>• Explore topics</li> <li>• Do some background reading</li> <li>• Create questions to guide your research</li> </ul>	Apprehension, uncertainty about the work ahead
<b>Stage 2: Identifying resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Make sure you have access to the kinds of sources you'll need and that there are enough to complete your research</li> </ul>	Confusion, doubt, uncertainty
<b>Stage 3: Planning your search</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrow or broaden your topic into a research question</li> <li>• Create subject and keyword lists to search</li> <li>• Prioritize your questions</li> <li>• Create interview questions, schedule interviews, and organize your search time</li> </ul>	Confusion, doubt, uncertainty
<b>Stage 4: Hunting and Gathering</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather all the information you think you'll need</li> <li>• Use all your locating skills, including skimming and scanning, using indexes and tables of contents, checking for gaps in information, and recording bibliographic information</li> <li>• Take notes</li> </ul>	Realization of extensive work to be done; confidence; increased interest in topic of research
<b>Stage 5: Evaluating and Organizing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decide what to keep, what to leave out, how to record the information, how to organize your notes into useful parts</li> <li>• Figure out what are the best sources available</li> <li>• Decide which sources are reliable and credible. Verify facts and sources.</li> </ul>	Confidence or uncertainty
<b>Stage 6: Making It Your Own</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• You might analyze, interpret, compare, or view facts from another perspective</li> <li>• You may use facts from a variety of sources to create a completely new argument or solve a problem in an original way</li> </ul>	Growing sense of clarity - or doubt, based on what has been discovered
<b>Stage 7: Communicating Your Findings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This stage involves all the issues in sharing what you've learned with your audience</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	Apprehension that you've taken your research in the right direction and communicated it well
<b>Stage 8: Looking Back on What You Learned and How You Learned</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This stage involves thinking about the content you learned and the process you went through to do your research</li> </ul>	Satisfaction or disappointment; relief; stronger sense of own strengths or weaknesses as a researcher