

Stage: Choosing a Topic

Task	Thoughts	Feelings	Actions	Strategies
<p>To decide on a topic for research</p>	<p>Weighing topics: Is it interesting to me? Does it match the project requirements? Is there enough appropriate information available? Can I get it done in the time allotted?</p> <p>Predicting the outcome of possible choices</p> <p>Choosing a topic with the potential for success</p>	<p>Confusion</p> <p>Anxiety</p> <p>Brief elation after selecting the topic</p> <p>Anticipation of the next task</p>	<p>Consulting with professors and librarians</p> <p>Making a preliminary search for library materials to see if there will be enough information</p> <p>Using reference sources, like encyclopedias</p>	<p>Discussing possible topics</p> <p>Predicting the outcomes of your decisions</p> <p>Using general sources to get an overview of the topics you're considering</p>

Adapted from Carol Kuhlthau's "Initial Model of the Information Search Process" in *Seeking Meaning*, 2004. p. 46