



linktr.ee/dylan.mcg

Charting the Research Journey: Kuhlthau's Model in a Graduate Music Course

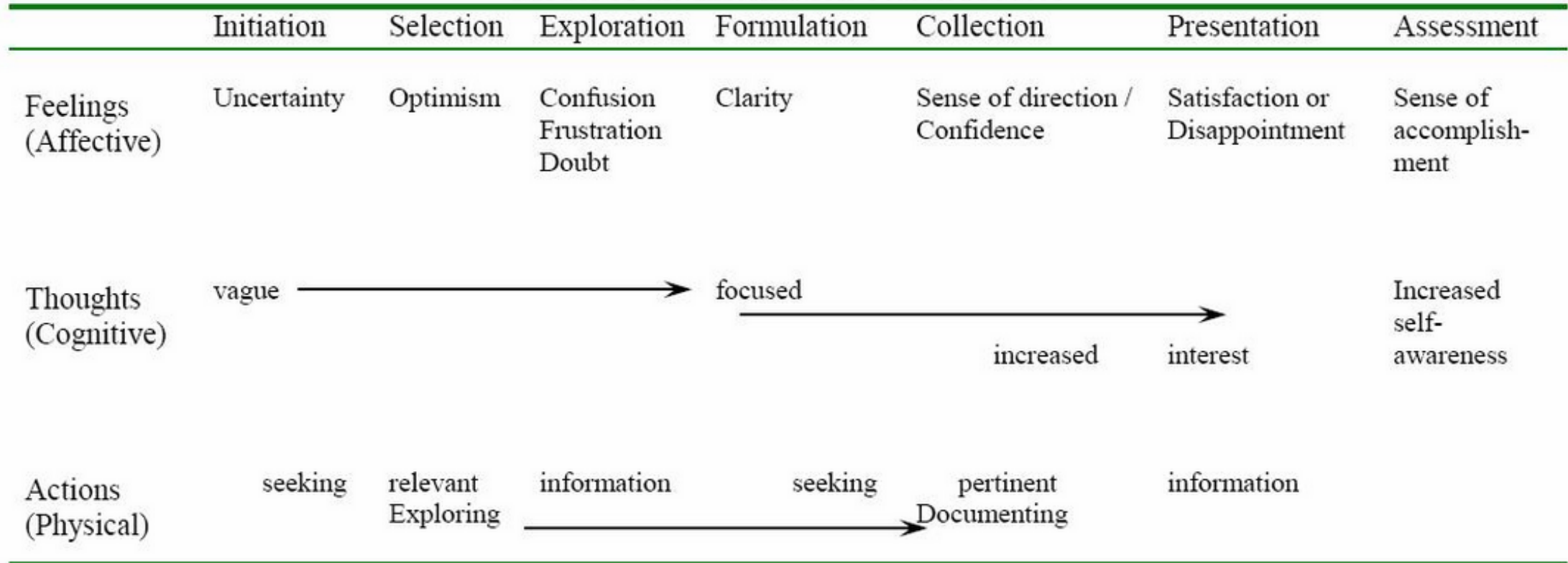
Dylan McGlothlin (he/they), Western Michigan University

How it started

- I was invited to teach MUS 6100 Introduction to Music Research
- A colleague mentioned Kuhlthau's model being a favorite
- Kuhlthau, C. C. (1994). *Teaching the Library Research Process* (2nd ed.). The Scarecrow Press.

Why Kuhlthau?

Model of the Information Search Process



Kuhlthau, C. (n.d.). *Information Search Process*. Rutgers.

<https://wp.comminfo.rutgers.edu/ckuhlthau/information-search-process/>

Class Culture

- All international students: 5 from China, 1 from Columbia, 1 from Ecuador
- All performance majors
- Starting research: Wanted the topic to be assigned to them
- Evaluating Information: Expected a list of acceptable sources
- Making a claim and providing supporting evidence: "I think..."



Initiation

- Description: length of paper and list of possible topic categories
- Submission: 2-5 possible topics (provide example)
 - What do you already know?
 - What would you like to know?

Research Paper

Part 1A Initiation

Goal

- Brainstorm possible topics

Description

You will submit a 10+ page research paper and bibliography at the end of this course. Begin generating music topics you would like to know more about. Further assignment details will be given as the course progresses.

Possible Topics

- An in-depth study of a person (composer, musician, instrument maker, etc.)
- Analysis or comparison of a specific work or collection of works
- An in-depth study of a musical style
- Marketing and branding analysis of a band or musician
- Analysis of music in film, tv shows, social media, video games, etc.
- Study of the social/political context of a work or collection of works

Submission

You will submit to the dropbox in Elearning:

- A list of 2-5 possible topics
- Each topic will have a bulleted list of:
 - What you already know about that topic
 - What you would like to know about that topic

Submission Example of a Topic

Elite Tauren Chieftain

- What I already know:
 - Virtual World of Warcraft band
- What I want to know:
 - Was there an IRL band?
 - Was the band formed/organized by Blizzard or organically formed?
 - Was it used in the marketing and branding of WoW?
 - How were performances organized?
 - Do they only sing about WoW?
 - Are there other virtual video game bands?
 - Is there any in-game lore around ETC?



Selecting a Topic

- Description: Explore sources
- Task: search in Google & Google Scholar (+ reference)
- Submission: 2+ search results per topic (provide example)
 - What are you finding?
 - Do you think this is a good topic for this assignment?

Research Paper

Part 2A Selecting a Topic: Google and Google Scholar

Goal

- Prepare to select a topic

Description

Now that you have thought about potential topics, it's time to see what sources are available. Some topics are too recent, obscure, broad, etc. to have books or journal articles written about them. This is an opportunity to see if the information you need exists. It will also help you narrow your topic from something broad (the composer, Alban Berg) to something more specific (How Berg conveys gender and relationships in the music of the opera *Lulu*).

Tasks

- Do a general keyword search in Google. What kinds of results are you finding?
- Do a general keyword search in Google Scholar. What kinds of results are you finding?

Submission

You will submit to the dropbox in Elearning:

Each possible topic will have:

- A bulleted list of results (at least one from Google and one from Google Scholar) with links and a brief description of why this might be a good source for your topic.
- A brief paragraph answering the questions:
 - Are you finding the type of information you were expecting to find?
 - Are there any similarities or differences between the results?
 - Do you think there is enough information on your topic to write a 10+ page paper about it?

Submission Example

Elite Tauren Chieftain

- Google: https://wowpedia.fandom.com/wiki/Elite_Tauren_Chieftain
 - Fan-created wiki entry with an overview of the band and links to other sources
- Google Scholar: [The WoW Factor: An Investigation of Social Needs, Interpersonal Communication, and Community in World of Warcraft](#)
 - A dissertation about WoW. ETC is only briefly mentioned but this source gives more social context.



Pros

MUS 6100

- ESL: writing practice & cultural adjustment

One-Shots

- Get example topics before class
- Students receive credit for their work

MUS 6100 & One-Shots

- Students start now

Cons

MUS 6100

- A lot of grading, students perceived as a lot of work
- Repetitive
- Can fall behind quickly

One-Shots

- Student not attending library day

One-Shot Applications

PHIL 1100 Inquiry, Argument, and Debate: Argument paper and presentation

1. Initiation (30 min)
2. Selecting a topic (50 min)

SPAN 3240 Intro Study Spanish Linguistics: Empirical study presentation

1. Initiation discussion board (75 min)

GWS 1000 Media and the Sexes: Creative project and paper

1. Initiation + Selecting a topic (75 min)



Thank you!

* linktr.ee/dylan.mcg

Credits.

Presentation Template: [SlidesMania](#)

Images: [Unsplash](#)

Please keep this slide or mention us and the other resources used in the footer of a slide.