My Research Project: Explore Your Topic

As you work through the strategies discussed in this chapter, use the following activity to keep track of your topic exploration in your research log.

1. What is my topic?
2. Have I discussed my topic with others? If so, what have I learned? If not, who are likely candidates for interviews—such as librarians, instructors, and people involved with or affected by my topic—and what questions should I ask them?
3. Are there any preliminary observations I should conduct? Have I done so? If so, what have I learned?
4. Have I identified types of sources that are appropriate for my project? What kind of sources are they?
5. Have I found and reviewed sources? Have I searched the library catalog and browsed the shelves? Have I searched databases and the Web? Have I skimmed, marked, annotated, and taken brief notes on the sources I’ve found? If so, what have I learned about my topic?