

Name: _____

Running the Risk

Directions: Read the article “Online Privacy” (page 8). Then read the scenarios below. After each scenario, circle whether the teens made smart or risky choices, and state why.

1. Derek has his own page on a social-networking site, under his own name. There he posts recaps of games for the baseball team he pitches on, rumors about girls in his class, and photos of him drinking alcohol with friends at parties, even though he’s not legally old enough to drink. Derek has his page set to “private,” but he “friends” anyone who asks.

SMART or RISKY? *Why?* _____

2. Tina and her best friend don’t like their guidance counselor, so they set up a blog devoted to bashing him. The blog features nasty comments and photos of the counselor that have been manipulated. Tina and her friend identify their school and their counselor by name, but use their own middle names when they post. To get visitors, they send e-mails to their classmates about the blog.

SMART or RISKY? *Why?* _____

3. Alex is in a new chat room about video games, using his favorite character as his screen name. He gets into an instant-messaging conversation with a friendly gamer. The other person wants to know what Alex looks like, where he lives, and what his real name is. Alex is suspicious and doesn’t reveal anything; he saves the IMs, logs off, and tells his dad.

SMART or RISKY? *Why?* _____

4. Charlene is using the computer at the library to check her e-mail. Her e-mail address uses her first name and her birthday. Some kids she used to be friends with in elementary school stop by to talk. Charlene gets up to use the bathroom but doesn’t log off.

SMART or RISKY? *Why?* _____

