

Fake profiles and manipulation

Name: _____

Class: _____

1. Warm up

A place where I talk to people I have never met in person is...

One thing that would make me trust someone online is...

2. Lower risk, warning sign, or high risk?

Identity. Secrecy. Speed. Pressure. One clue proves nothing: the pattern matters.

Lower risk

It leaves you room to choose.

- Someone you know offline
- Friends in common
- Fine with a video call
- Accepts "not now"
- No secrets asked
- Talks at a normal pace

Warning sign

Slow down and look closer.

- New or empty profile
- Avoids video calls
- Big feelings very fast
- Messages all day
- Unasked-for gifts
- "Let's move to another app"

High risk

Stop, save it and get help.

- "Keep this between us"
- Disappearing or deleted chats
- Keeps pushing after no
- Asks for private photos
- Asks where you live
- Threats or guilt

Quick check: tick the zone for each message

Message	Lower risk	Warning	High risk
"No pressure. Talk later if you want."	☐	☐	☐
"Delete this chat after you read it."	☐	☐	☐
"Can we video call sometime?"	☐	☐	☐
"Don't tell anyone we talk."	☐	☐	☐
"I feel like we have a real connection already." (after one day)	☐	☐	☐
"Let's move to another app."	☐	☐	☐

Scenario discussion

Answer these with your group for each card you receive.

Card number: _____ ☐ Lower risk ☐ Warning sign ☐ High risk

Which clues did you notice?

How might the main character feel?

What could they do next?

Who could they ask for help?

Card number: _____ ☐ Lower risk ☐ Warning sign ☐ High risk

Which clues did you notice?

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Card number: _____ ☐ Lower risk ☐ Warning sign ☐ High risk

Which clues did you notice?

How might the main character feel?

What could they do next?

Who could they ask for help?

Slow it down

Card number: _____

What I could reply (short, no explanation needed)

What I would do next (save, block, report, tell)

My online safety habits (tick what you already do)

- ☐ I check a profile before I accept a request.
- ☐ I don't share my school, address or location with people I only know online.
- ☐ I don't keep an online friendship secret from everyone.
- ☐ I say no to moving chats to disappearing or private apps.
- ☐ I trust the feeling when something seems off.
- ☐ I know how to save, block and report in my apps.

If something feels off

1 Pause

Don't rush to keep the conversation going.

2 Save it

Keep screenshots of messages and the account.

3 Block / report

Use the app's tools if it crosses a line.

4 Tell someone

Talk to a trusted adult or a safe person.

Exit ticket

One clue I will look for in a profile is...

One manipulation tactic I can now recognize is...

If something online felt off, I would tell...

Need to talk? Your school counselor, the National Lifeline 1564 (24/7), or LARA: laraa@laraa.org.