

ACTIVITY**1****Decision Making**

FOR USE WITH CHAPTER 1

Directions ➤ Pretend you write an advice column called “Dear Chris” for your school newspaper. Select one of the letters and apply the six-step decision-making process to the situation described in the letter. Then answer the letter in the space provided.

LETTER A

Dear Chris,

My best friend since third grade is a person I'll call Jake. This year, Jake has changed. He doesn't seem to spend any time on schoolwork any more, and he makes fun of me when I do. He's also using drugs, although not that much, and he's quit the basketball team. I don't know how to deal with this new Jake. I still spend time with him, but I don't like what he's doing and what he wants me to do. I need some help in handling this. I've already decided that our friendship is important, and I'm strong enough to tell him no, but should I try to help him—and if I decide to help him, what should I do?

Signed,
Jake's Friend

LETTER B

Dear Chris,

My parents don't seem to know that I'm growing up. They are always embarrassing me by fussing over what I wear, asking me if I'm going to be warm enough when I go out, telling my friends that I don't eat right, and then telling me that they don't like my friends. I think I'm old enough to make most of my decisions myself, and I'm getting really tired of them treating me as if I'm five years old. What can I do?

Signed,
Not A Little Boy

1. Which letter did you select?

2. List three possible options for solving the person's problem.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

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3. List the possible outcome, or consequence, of each option for solving the problem.

- a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

4. Consider your personal values. Describe how each possible option would fit with your values.

- a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

5. Make a decision. Look back at your answers and choose the best decision. Then describe how you would advise the person to put this decision into action.

6. Evaluate your advice. What would be the outcome of this advice? How will it affect the person?

YOUR LETTER

Dear _____,

