

Online Persona Options

- **Choosing School Personas**

If your circumstances are such that students need to choose names for e-mail addresses or login/screen names that will be used at your school or in your class, focus the lesson on the current situation and audience, guiding students to think through the process of making their choices. Students can complete the Profile as a get-acquainted activity or as their first posting once their new e-mail addresses are established.

- **Choosing Personal, School-related Online Personas**

If your situation is such that students are choosing e-mail addresses for an outside purpose (e.g., they are graduating and want to exchange addresses with classmates), again, you can focus the lesson on the current situation and audience, guiding students through the process of making their choices. Students can complete the profile, based on their online personas, as separate activity that is handed in and, if desired, shared with the class.

- **Choosing Personal, Non-school-related Online Personas**

If you are aware that students are participating in online activities out of class, you may ask students to choose a situation in which they use an alias and explain the name that they use. They may explain the choice of a name that they currently use or a new name. Be sure to ask students to explain the audience with which they will use the name. Students can complete the profile, based on their online personas, as separate activity that is handed in and, if desired, shared with the class.

- **Choosing Personas for Imagined Scenarios**

If there is not a situation in which students are actually using online names, share an imagined scenario for the activity, asking students to choose an online name and complete a profile for the persona. The following scenarios are options for the activity:

- Imagine that our school is getting an e-mail server that will be used primarily for messages to teachers and students. You will only be able to send e-mail when you are at school and to other people at school.
- Imagine that our town is part of an Internet initiative. The program is funding online access for schools, town buildings, and libraries. Every citizen in the town, as well as anyone employed by the local school system or town government, will have access to the system. Those who want to participate will apply for a login/e-mail address that they can use for full Internet access.
- Imagine that your family is signing up for a new Internet service provider. The family is allowed five e-mail addresses, and one of them is to be yours. Your family won't monitor your e-mail, but will have access to your account information. They have told you that you can use the e-mail for anything you want—school and friends.
- Imagine that you are creating a Yahoo! login so that you can join an online group for a hobby or special interest of yours. You will use the login as your e-mail address for the group as well as for your screen name in the related chatroom.