The student's guide to
SAFE ONLINE SHOPPING

If you've got something you want to buy or sell, chances are you'll find the best deals online. But how do you keep your money and personal information safe? Smart digital citizens ask these questions when they make online transactions.

Where am I going?

Check the URL bar to be sure the link you're about to click isn't redirecting you to a secondary site that might capture your personal information.

Is the site secure?

Does the URL of the website show *https*? That "s" at the end or a yellow lock icon in the lower right-hand corner means the site includes encryption.

Do I understand the charges?

Before clicking "Buy now," be sure you understand the fine print. Will there be additional charges for shipping, enrollment fees, special offers or rewards programs?

Who do I tell?

If you've been defrauded, notify the site, email carrier, website host or social media company. Then report it to your local consumer protection agency.

What am I sharing?

Anytime you're shopping or selling online, your information could be compromised. Are you giving out account numbers, your Social Security number or passwords?

Am I in public?

Are you shopping or selling on a computer in a library or at school? If so, someone else could collect your information from that machine.

Am I respecting others?

If you're playing a game on Grandma's phone, it's easy to hit "Buy" in the app store. Be sure to get her permission first.

Where can I get — and give — reliable advice?

Reviews are sometimes biased. Crowdsource more reliable product feedback on social media and add your voice if a product is sub-par.

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