Julie’s Journey

Overview
Students watch “Julie’s Journey.” In groups, students put quotes from Julie’s story in chronological order and discuss how each small decision Julie made contributed to a serious consequence.

Materials / Preparation
- Computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector
- Video - “Julie’s Journey”
- 8 sheets of posterboard or large butcher paper
- Markers
- Tape
- Attachment 1 - “Julie’s Journey” quotes handout

30 minutes

Activity
Write on the board, “The Internet is a tool like a knife.” Ask the students what they think this means. *It’s a tool that has to be used properly or else you can get hurt.* Introduce “Julie’s Journey” as the true story of a 13-year-old girl who said that about the Internet. Show “Julie’s Journey.”

Ask the students to share the lines from her story that affected them the most. Mention how Julie said little things can end up becoming a big thing. Tell the students you are going to take a closer look at how little decisions Julie made and her risky behavior had big consequences. Divide the students into groups of four; give each group poster board and the slips of paper from the handout. Instruct the students to place the quotes in chronological order, leaving space between each quote.

In the spaces, the students should write the actions or choices Julie made leading to the next quote. They may also fill in what decisions Julie could have made to prevent the next step from happening. You may wish to do the first one as a class. *Example, between “When I was 13, I started talking to Tom...” and “It went from just friends to best friends...” the students could write Julie started Instant Messaging Tom between three and six hours a day.* Invite several groups to share what they wrote and discuss how Julie’s story can help them in their decisions.
He mentioned, wouldn’t it be nice if we were together all the time and then the thought came up of running away.

He sent a letter to me saying that he was going to kill me if he ever got out of jail.

I kissed all my brothers good night. He was in his truck, and we just rode out.

I ran away for 3 weeks.
I would never do it again.

It went from just friends to best friends to a more personal relationship than best friends.

Somebody reported us and saw our truck. I knew pretty much, it’s over.

When I was 13, I started talking to Tom. He didn’t act or even sound like a 56-year-old man.