Three scenarios of risky behaviors are presented below. Choose one of these scenarios to answer the questions presented on the Response sheet.

**The Base Jumper:** Terri began base jumping (jumping off of tall hills and structures then parachuting) when she was 15 years old. She felt extremely scared the first time, but soon felt a rush of excitement afterward. Now just anticipating her next base jump is exciting. Since beginning base jumping, Terri reports that she is more confident. Besides, her friends think she is really cool.

**The Suspender:** Jack has several body piercings and he has begun to suspend. This activity involves inserting hooks, usually in the skin of the back, and suspending from ropes or chains tied to these hooks. While the activity sounds disgusting to Jack's family, he feels terrific after he suspends. Sometimes he even gets paid for suspending, and he always gets lots of attention.

**The Thief:** Saleena used to shoplift when she was younger because her family was poor and needed clothing and food. Now, Saleena has enough money, but she finds herself shoplifting on occasion. She enjoys the craftiness it takes to steal without being caught -- the feeling that she can outsmart the store owners. She also gets to wear nice clothing in return for her efforts.
Name: ________________________________

Instructions: Answer the following questions for the scenario that you selected.

1. Extrinsic motivation involves behaving because we will obtain an incentive or external reward for the behavior. What were the extrinsic motivators presented in your scenario?

2. Intrinsic motivation involves behaving because we will obtain a personal or internal reward for the behavior. What were the intrinsic motivators presented in your scenario?

3. Does your scenario reflect mostly extrinsic motivation or intrinsic motivation?

4. Based on the information you provided in #3, does Incentive Theory or Cognitive Theory best explain why the person in your scenario was motivated to perform a high-risk behavior?

5. Why doesn't the drive-reduction theory work well for explaining risky behaviors?
SCENARIOS 15.6 – RISKY BEHAVIORS – HANDOUT

Create your own scenario of a risky behavior. Then answer the questions for the scenario you create.

SCENARIO:

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the extrinsic motivators presented in your scenario?

2. What were the intrinsic motivators presented in your scenario?

3. Does your scenario reflect mostly extrinsic motivation or intrinsic motivation?

4. Does Incentive or Cognitive Theory best explain why the person in your scenario was motivated to perform a high-risk behavior?