

Students turned teachers

In today's Information Age, professionals in all industries must constantly learn, adopt and implement new knowledge and tools to stay relevant and competitive in their markets. Accountants are no exception, as emerging technologies are also changing how financial information is captured, processed and evaluated.

By the time you enter the job market, your analytical and interpersonal skills will be more important than ever as automation takes over repetitive (and often mundane) tasks. This activity will introduce you to some of the game-changing technologies you'll likely be working alongside in your future role while also exercising your on-the-spot presentation skills.

Start the activity by forming a group of 4-5 with your classmates, then choose one of the following technologies to explore:

- Data Analytics
- Robotic Process Automation
- Blockchain
- Cybersecurity
- Machine Learning

After choosing your topic, answer the questions below as a group:

- What is [chosen technology]? Define/explain it.
- What is a popular example of this technology being used in society?
- How is this technology applied in accounting?
- Are there any limitations in its use?
- What is the risk if accountants and firms do not adopt this technology?

Once you've answered the questions, you and your group will educate your classmates on what you've found. Don't sweat it – you may be surprised by how much you already know.