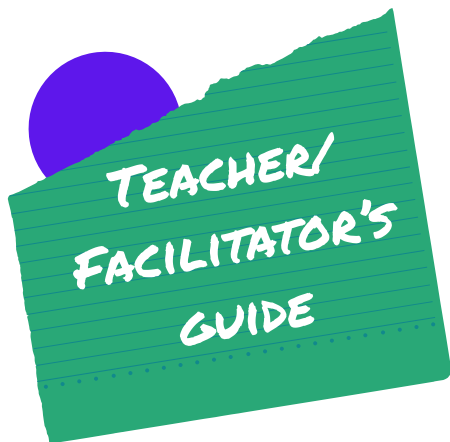




BUDGET BOSS ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

PURPOSE

Engage high school students in a fun, hands-on budgeting challenge that shows how accountants help businesses make smart money decisions.

1. SET THE STAGE (1 MINUTE)

Say: "Have you ever seen Shark Tank or thought about starting your own business? Accountants play a big role in whether those business ideas succeed. Today, you'll get a chance to be entrepreneurs AND accountants."

2. EXPLAIN THE CHALLENGE (2 MINUTES)

- Pass out the handout (business idea cards + budget worksheet).
- **Say:** "Each group will pick a business idea. You have \$1,000 to spend. Your job is to decide how much to put into equipment, marketing, rent, and other expenses. At the end, you'll give a quick pitch explaining your choices."
- **Emphasize:** "There's no perfect answer—just think realistically about what your business would need."

3. GROUP WORK (5 MINUTES)

Encourage quick decision-making. Walk around, listen in, and ask guiding questions:

- "How will people find out about your business?"
- "What's the most important thing to spend on first?"
- "Did you leave yourself a cushion for unexpected costs?"

4. PITCHES + DISCUSSION (2 MINUTES)

Each group gives a 30-second pitch: their business and budget. After each pitch, affirm something smart they did, e.g.:

- "Good thinking to spend on marketing—without customers, your business can't succeed."
- "Smart choice to balance between equipment and advertising—that's how real businesses think."

5. WRAP-UP (30 SECONDS)

Say: "What you just did is what accountants help businesses do every day. Accounting isn't just numbers—it's about helping people make smart decisions and turn ideas into reality."

TIPS FOR FACILITATORS

- ✓ Keep it light, fun, and interactive.
- ✓ Use real-world examples if possible (e.g., "I helped a client budget for opening a restaurant").
- ✓ Reinforce that accounting = opportunities + impact.

BUDGET BOSS ACTIVITY STUDENT HANDOUT

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Work in a small group (3-5 people).
2. Your group will select a Business Idea.
3. You have \$1,000 to spend starting your business.
4. Decide how to allocate your money in the budget categories below.
5. Be ready to give a quick 30-second pitch of your business and spending choices.

BUSINESS IDEA (PICK ONE BELOW OR CREATE YOUR OWN):

- Coffee Truck
- Sneaker Resale Shop
- Video Game Café
- Pet Grooming Service
- Social Media Marketing Agency

BUDGET WORKSHEET (ALLOCATE YOUR \$1,000)

Category	Planned Spending
Equipment/Inventory	\$ _____
Marketing/Advertising	\$ _____
Rent/Utilities	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$1,000